

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

edf ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

FREE

# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk September 4, 2016

North & West edition No 728

## RAIL

### Kent-France commuter service 'in five years'

Calais mayor to spearhead push for regular rail services

## CHALLENGE

### Death or glory of Channel swim

Tragedy highlights gruelling nature of the 21-mile feat

## ROADS

### Carnage of M20 crash

And motorway will be shut again in both directions ALL this weekend

## REGENERATION

### Do DfLs only breed seaside prosperity?

Or are Down from Londoners a peril to our local communities?

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ballet

Jean-Christophe Maillot's  
Les Ballets de Monte Carlo's

## ROMEO AND JULIET

★★★★★ The Telegraph

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## DfLs can bring riches but also big challenges

IF you are fortunate enough to live in a town which becomes a tourist hotspot all year round, then it can be easy to be blinded by pound signs that pour from the bricks and mortar which make up your home.

After all, when an area is on the up, the house prices comfortably eclipse national trends. A modest property bought ten years ago could easily be delivering you a profit of £100,000 if you are tempted to sell up and move elsewhere. And you can't be blamed for cashing in.

But therein lies the problem. Because in your place, increasingly, will be someone moving out from the capital, devoid of community roots and keen to sculpt their new surroundings to which they are familiar. Granted, such a move has happened for decades, but when it happens in significant numbers, communities and their retail hubs



Editor **Chris Britcher**

can change beyond recognition; often ushering in fine outlets but often charging higher prices. Suddenly those that have lived in towns for years find themselves priced out of more and more.

Communities have always evolved, of course, but it is the explicit courting of the well-heeled Down from Londoner (DfL) which currently seems so relentless.

Our seaside towns are particularly vulnerable to this gentrification process - seen, as it is, as the path to transformation. We have a special report inside this edition looking at three examples - Margate, Folkestone and Whitstable. We're certainly not suggesting all that comes with it is bad - far from it - but it highlights concerns so often overlooked as another national newspaper heaps praise on another 'quaint' Kentish town undergoing a transformation.

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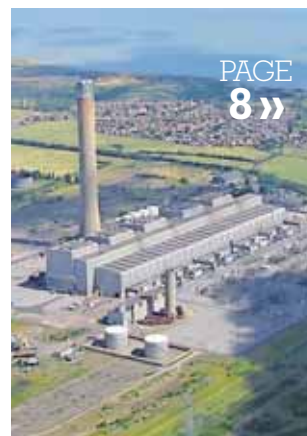
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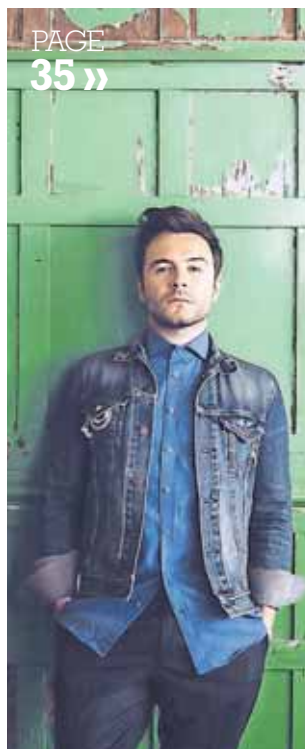
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## NSPCC raps out warning over big rise in 'sexting'

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

A WARNING has been issued to 'sexting' teenagers in the county after new figures revealed some 631 offences of indecent images – 22 of which were committed by children under 18 – over the last three years.

Sexting sees users send nude photographs via their mobile phones or social media – often without the person's consent for it to be shared.

The total number of offences reported to all 45 police forces across the UK has nearly tripled, rising from 4,530 in 2013 to 10,818 in 2015, and of those 2,031 were under the age of 18.

The NSPCC, which obtained the figures, is urging parents to talk to children about the risks of sharing nude selfies on mobile phones and social media as this may be partly fuelling the rise in offences by under-18s.

A survey recently revealed only half of parents knew that children taking nude selfies were committing a crime.

However, among those children reported to the police may also be



**AWARE:** Parents are urged to ensure their children understand the law and the risks

young people who have been found in possession of child abuse images.

And the big rise in adults caught with indecent images of children shows the demand for such material is still growing.

Peter Wanless, CEO of the NSPCC, said: "Over the last two decades, digital technology has fuelled an explosion in the production and consumption of child sexual abuse images that increasingly involves

the streaming of live video.

"Committed leadership from government, and dedicated police operations have made a real difference. But the war on child abuse images is only just beginning.

"The internet industry must prioritise this issue by committing their expertise and work with the public and voluntary sector to find solutions.

"As well as pursuing and deterring adults who make and distribute

these we must educate children about how to keep themselves safe online and offline and how to get help as soon as grooming or abuse happens. And every child who is the victim of exploitation and abuse should get the support they need to rebuild their lives."

In one previously reported episode, a 14-year-old boy was added to a police database after he sent a naked image of himself to a female classmate on Snapchat.

## Uni of Kent academic sheds light on just who voted to leave the EU

LOW earners in left-behind areas were the driving force behind the landmark Brexit decision, research by a University of Kent academic has found.

Professor Matthew Goodwin co-authored the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) study, which claimed that British votes in the referendum were deeply divided across economic, educational and social lines.

The Brexit message was clear in Kent, with 59 per cent of voters opting to leave the European Union. Tunbridge Wells was the only area to vote remain.

JRF said the findings were a "wake up" call for Theresa May to stick to her promise of making Britain work for all following her pledge to prioritise social justice in her first speech as prime minister last month.

The analysis found that nearly 60 per cent of households earning less than £20,000 a year voted for Brexit, but in families with incomes over £60,000 support for leaving the EU

was only 35 per cent.

Unemployed people and those looking for work were also far more likely to support Brexit than those in full employment – support for leave among the former was 59 per cent but only 45 per cent among the latter.

Educational inequality was also a standout trend behind the vote, with over 70 per cent of people with no qualification voting for Brexit and over 70 per cent of people with a postgraduate degree deciding to remain.

Researcher Professor Matthew Goodwin said: "This reveals how the referendum was not simply about our relationship with the European Union, but also shed light on the deep divides that exist in our society.

"The findings of our research point to the importance of both people and place. It wasn't only that people who are struggling tended to support Brexit but also in some cases more skilled people who reside in low skilled areas."

## Huge emergency response to tackle Exercise Tycoon

A DRAMATIC emergency drill to test the response of emergency teams will take place in Rochester on Tuesday, September 13, simulating a coach carrying around 50 college students being involved in a multi-vehicle pile-up. An articulated lorry has rolled onto several of the cars, almost crushing them and a car involved in the collision is on fire.

Exercise Tycoon is designed to test the joint response of the emergency services and other agencies.

Around 50 firefighters, 10 fire engines, ambulance, air ambulance and police will gather for the exercise on land at BAE Systems at Marconi Way, next to the new Rochester Fire Station, between 1pm and 3pm.

## A little rail relief as Southern restores 100 vital services

SOUTHERN Rail has decided to restore 100 services to its emergency timetable, starting from next week.

From Monday, a total of 119 trains per day will be reintroduced, after the rail company withdrew more than 340 services in July.

The emergency timetable came into force during Southern's ongoing dispute with the rail workers' union RMT and fury from

commuters over unreliable services. Workers have gone on strike over the changing role of rail conductors, with further strikes planned for September 7 and 8.

Metro services between London Bridge and Beckenham will now operate a normal timetable.

Meanwhile services to and from Redhill and Tonbridge will run outside of peak times.



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## Help save lives by discussing organ donations

A FRESH appeal has been made this week to get more people to sign up to donate their organs after their deaths.

In the county last year, 79 people received a potentially lifesaving or transforming transplant.

However, the Organ Donation and Transplantation Activity Report shows around four-out-of-ten families in the UK did not agree to donate a relative's organs.

In Kent last year, 11 people died before they received the organ they desperately needed. Organ Donation Week starts this Monday and is urging more people to sign up to help save lives.

Sally Johnson at NHS Blood and Transplant said: "Many families in Kent tell us they take huge comfort in knowing that their relative has saved the lives of others."



**THROUGH:** Erith's Rav Bansal

## Duo celebrate reaching Bake Off's week 3

TWO local contestants on the BBC's smash hit series The Great British Bake Off have made it through to week three after failing to crumble during biscuit week.

The show, which pulls in millions of viewers in its prime time Wednesday night slot on BBC1, includes Jane Beedle from Beckenham and Erith's Rav Bansal and both avoided elimination.

After a strong start, winning the first Star Baker of the season, 63-year-old Mrs Beedle faced a mixed performance, delivering half-iced biscuits during one of the rounds.

Meanwhile, judge Paul Hollywood, who lives in Wingham, near Canterbury told Mr Bansal his coconut bunting biscuits reminded him of a Thai green curry, but ultimately praised the taste.

For the showstopper round, contestants were asked to create a structure from biscuits. Mrs Beedle, inspired by her memories of visiting family in Hastings, created a sculpture of the old town, while Mr Bansal's Christmas fairground failed to meet expectations.

Ultimately both of our local bakers lived on to bake another day, as Welsh contestant Louise Williams was dumped out of the competition as her church replica bake collapsed before her eyes.

## Historic medals from 'the Few' hero fly back to Blighty to go on display

**By Tom Pyman**

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

WARTIME medals of a Battle of Britain pilot have landed at a memorial in Kent after an Australian couple flew them halfway around the world.

Flight Lieutenant Charles "Tich" Palliser DFC, one of 'the Few', died in 2011 after spending the last decades of his life in Australia.

However, daughter Gill, felt his medals, which included the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and the Battle of Britain Clasp, reserved for 'the Few', should be returned to Britain and asked the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust if it would keep them safe for future generations.

The trust already has Flt Lt Palliser's uniform jacket and a set of replica medals on display at the end of The Scramble Experience in The Wing at Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone, and welcomed the chance to care for the real medals.

But living in Melbourne, Ms Palliser didn't want to trust the post with



**TRIP:** Medals now back home

her precious cargo and even consulted the British Consulate for advice on sending the medals to Kent.

Coincidentally, her good friends Colin and Faye Murphy, who had also known the pilot well, revealed

that they were planning a golden wedding anniversary trip to Britain and Europe and offered to bring the medals with them.

With the medals still wrapped in the three handkerchiefs Flt Lt Palliser himself had used to keep them safe inside their leather pouch, the couple brought the package to London, where they handed the medals over to the trust chairman Richard Hunting.

"This was a splendid gesture by Gill to offer the trust her father's medals, which I know meant a great deal to her," he said.

"We are also incredibly grateful to Colin and Faye for bringing this precious cargo half way around the world. Gill and her friends can be assured that the trust will take very great care of the medals and will continue to make sure that the story of Tich and his brave colleagues continues to be told long into the future."

Mrs Murphy said it had been "a pleasure to help make Gill's dream become a reality and an absolute privilege to bring Tich's medals back home to England."

## Pull on your walking boots and get healthy

MORE than 270 events are taking place across the south east as part of the Ramblers' Walk About This Summer free festival.

Designed to offer a walk to suit everyone it runs from September 3 to 11 with more than 1,000 walks across Britain being staged. Among those close to home, today (Sunday) sees a 10.30am start for an 11-mile circular walk starting at Frant in East Sussex, before crossing the Kent border to take in Eridge Rocks and Tunbridge Wells.

For those who prefer to walk alone, or lead their own walks, the Ramblers has picked its favourite routes in the region, available from Ramblers' Routes – an online library of Britain's best walks. They include a moderate 8.5 mile walk from Borough Green to Riverhill.

The Ramblers' Simon Barnett said: "Walking is good for our health and our minds and we want everyone to be able to experience the many benefits and joys it can bring." For details see [www.ramblers.org.uk/walkabout](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/walkabout).

## Drug dealing duo face four-year terms

Two men caught dealing drugs in Folkestone have been sentenced to over four years in prison.

On June 7, police officers raided a property in Westbourne Gardens and recovered cocaine and heroin as well as drugs paraphernalia, scales and bags.

Later that evening, a car, which had been linked to the address, was seen by officers.

Boyd Williams, 25, was seen to get out of the car and run away, throwing something into a shrubbery as he fled. A search of the shrubbery revealed two parcels of Class A drugs 71.46 grams in total. But officers caught up with Williams and he was arrested along with Joshua Goldring-Wells, 22, who had remained in the car.

When officers searched Goldring-Wells, he had a set of keys which matched those for the flat in Westbourne Gardens.

Williams, of Folkestone Road, Dover, and Goldring-Wells, from London, were each sentenced to four years and four months at Canterbury Crown Court.

## Students warned on landlord responsibility

STUDENTS in Kent hunting down accommodation ahead of the start of the new academic year are being urged not to cut corners and ignore potential safety issues when choosing where to live.

As new research shows average rental prices in the UK rose by 2.6 per cent last year and tenant demand for properties increased by 22 per cent, students planning for the new term may be tempted to try to save money and rush into signing contracts without properly inspecting the property. However, this could leave them living in a potentially unsafe house and even put their health at risk.

In response, OFTEC, the UK trade body for the oil heating industry, is urging students in Kent to follow a six point safety checklist to help them find safe rental accommodation. It includes checking for fire and carbon monoxide alarms, damp, secure windows and doors, heating arrangement and ensuring all electrical appliances are working correctly.

Malcolm Farrow, from OFTEC, said: "Landlords have legal responsibilities towards their tenants."



# Toilet 'snorting' town mayor caught on film: I won't resign

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

THE mayor of Dover has insisted he will not resign after being caught on camera snorting a white substance inside a toilet cubicle.

Footage posted online shows councillor Neil Rix telling a man to close the door behind him before snorting the substance.

Cllr Rix tells the unidentified man: "Don't let anyone come... shut that door." He adds: "Don't want anyone seeing councillor Rix doing this."

In the 67-second clip posted on YouTube, Cllr Rix says: "You see what's there?"

The man replies: "Yeah, you do the big one," and Cllr Rix adds: "Are you sure?"

Cllr Rix said he was drunk, the victim of a blackmail plot and had been coerced when the incident was filmed around six years ago, but he insisted he would not step down as mayor of Dover.

He said: "I just feel I have let down my family but I will get over it. I have had a lot of support from friends and family, people that know me."

He said he was not a drug user, insisting he was "dead against" drug taking, and he was not sure what type of substance he snorted or where it was filmed.

He said: "I have never done it before. I was



**UNKNOWN:** Cllr Rix says he has no idea what he was captured online snorting

drunk. What happened happened. I don't know what it was I was putting up my nose. It could have been sherbet for all I know."

He admitted it was him in the footage but insisted it was not a resigning issue. Asked whether he would be quitting, Cllr Rix said: "No, I'm not at all. I'm not standing down."

He said he had been told the name of the man who had filmed and released the footage.

Born and bred in Dover, Cllr Rix was made mayor of the port town in May.

The circumstances surrounding the foot-

age featuring Cllr Rix, who is listed as an independent town councillor, are to be looked at by police.

A spokesman said: "Officers will be making inquiries to establish the circumstances of the footage."

In a statement, Dover Town Council added: "The video and the circumstances in which it has been posted are ambiguous. We will not allow the current speculation to stand in the way of the work of the mayor and Dover Town Council."

## RNLI rescue family on stricken vessel

VOLUNTEER lifeboat crew rescued a family of three from their catamaran off the north Kent coast after it encountered steering problems.

The boat was found north east of the Tongue Sand Tower, eight miles north of Margate, late on the evening of August 30.

There were three people on board: the owner his wife and their teenage daughter, and all were assisted to safety.

## Get on your bike for Cyclo Sportive 2016

HEART of Kent Hospice is staging its Cyclo Sportive on October 2 – hoping to capitalise on the success of Team GB's cycling stars at the Rio Olympics.

Open to all, there is a 100km, 65km, 38km and fun ride taking place, with all money going towards the hospice in Aylesford.

## Knit a poppy carpet

AN ambitious plan to knit or crochet more than 7,000 poppies to create a colourful carpet for Gravesend's Remembrance Day commemoration has been launched.

Gravesham council is working with the Royal British Legion and Gravesham Urban Knitters for the project to cover an area in Windmill Hill Memorial Garden in November.

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# Historic demolition to blow up chimney at power station

HISTORY will be made next week when the tallest concrete structure demolition takes place in Kent.

The controlled demolition of a 244m chimney - two-and-a-half times the height of Big Ben - at Grain A Power Station will commence on Wednesday at 11am.

Since demolition of the power station began, more than 84,000 tonnes of material has been removed from the site to be recycled, and work is expected to continue until the end of the year.

The existing infrastructure at Grain A has been used to build a new 1,275MW gas-fired power station on the same site, owned by energy giant Uniper.

The development of Grain B Power Station means the site can continue to provide electricity to



homes and businesses across the UK, and support employment in Medway.

Bosses advise those choosing to watch the detonation should do so at a safe distance.

Uniper says it will be unable to provide the public with access to a viewing point on site for the event but images will be available on [kentnews.co.uk](http://kentnews.co.uk) and in next weekend's Kent on Sunday.

## £1.5m fund to help fight radicalisation terror fears

THE government is set to invest up to £1.5m in projects tackling radicalisation and terrorism after a Kent mosque last week joined a chorus of criticism against its current strategies.

A Home Affairs select committee made a number of recommendations to reshape the way communities tackle the threat, after Welling-born preacher Anjem Choudary was convicted of encouraging support for terrorists following a trial at the Old Bailey earlier this month.

The government's existing Prevent strategy was launched in 2007 as the preventative strand of the government's counter-terrorism strategy, Contest.

In 2011 the agenda was relaunched to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and aspects of extremism,

provide practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure they are given appropriate advice and support.

However, the select committee found the strategy to be "toxic" in Muslim communities, and the Kent Muslim Welfare Association agreed, telling KOS the attitude was that "it was looking for Muslims who will spy on the households of other Muslims".

Now it appears the Home Office has listened to the committee's concerns with competition for investment open to applicants from last Tuesday until October 12. A spokesperson said: "The aim of this competition is to develop an outcome, resource or new technology. These should build understanding and prevent radicalisation and support for terrorism."

## Stonemason £22k fund

THE Masonic Charitable Foundation has awarded a £22,000 grant to help the stonemasonry apprenticeship scheme at Canterbury Cathedral.

It employs its own team of stonemasons and the grant will fund a further year's training for one of the young apprentices.

## Cops' £500 donation

A CARE group which provides specialist support to parents raising children with diabetes has received a £500 donation from the Kent Police property fund.

The Maidstone Area Parent Support Group, a voluntary group which is part of Diabetes UK, received the cash on Tuesday.

## Corbyn's Ramsgate rally

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn was due to address a rally in Ramsgate on Saturday - part of his tour of the country in the race to be re-elected leader of the party.

He was due to appear at the bandstand in the town alongside a host of union and political activists.

## Calais road protest fear

LAST-ditch talks continued this weekend to try to avert a potentially damaging blockade around the Port of Calais amid fears it will cause mass disruption to British cross-Channel travellers.

As of Friday afternoon, the protest was still due to take place this Monday.

**Pilgrims View Care Home**  
Roberts Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5HL

Pilgrims View care home is a purpose built single storey home situated in the small village of Snodland, Kent, providing residential dementia care services. The care home is registered and regulated by CQC.

Pilgrims View care home provides 24 hour dementia care and support to people living with dementia in a person centred way. Our team of trained staff are attentive to the needs of the residents and focus on the holistic needs of each individual, incorporating the importance of social activities in the care home and in the local community.

*"The care my husband receives is excellent, the staff are hardworking and very caring"*

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### 1. Calais blockade fears

What impact will it have on travellers?

### 2. Jones steps up Ukip bid

Leadership hopeful wants Jungle moved

### 3. MP slams rail service

David Evennett criticises Southeastern

## The Essential Guide:



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**FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY:** There was chaos on the M20 last weekend when a footbridge collapsed on the carriageway. See pages 14-16 for full coverage

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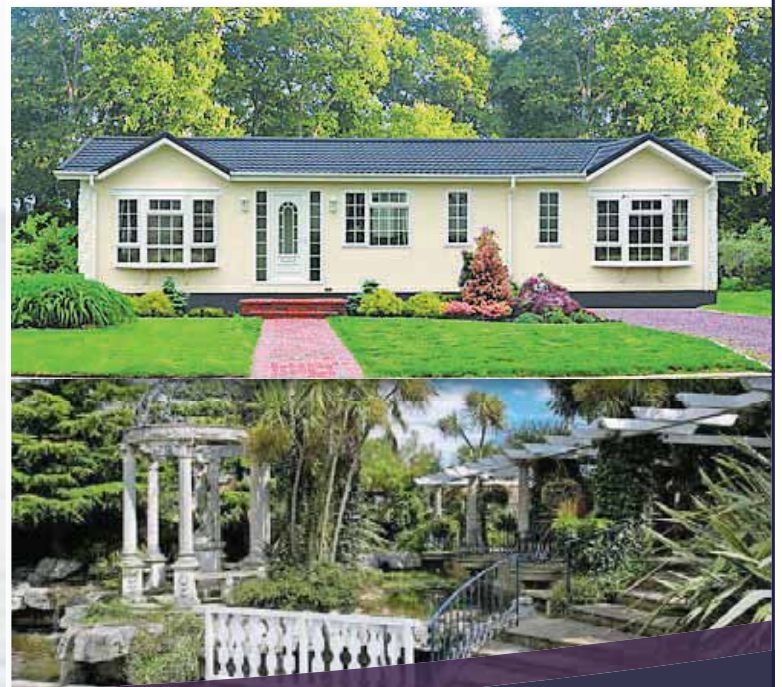
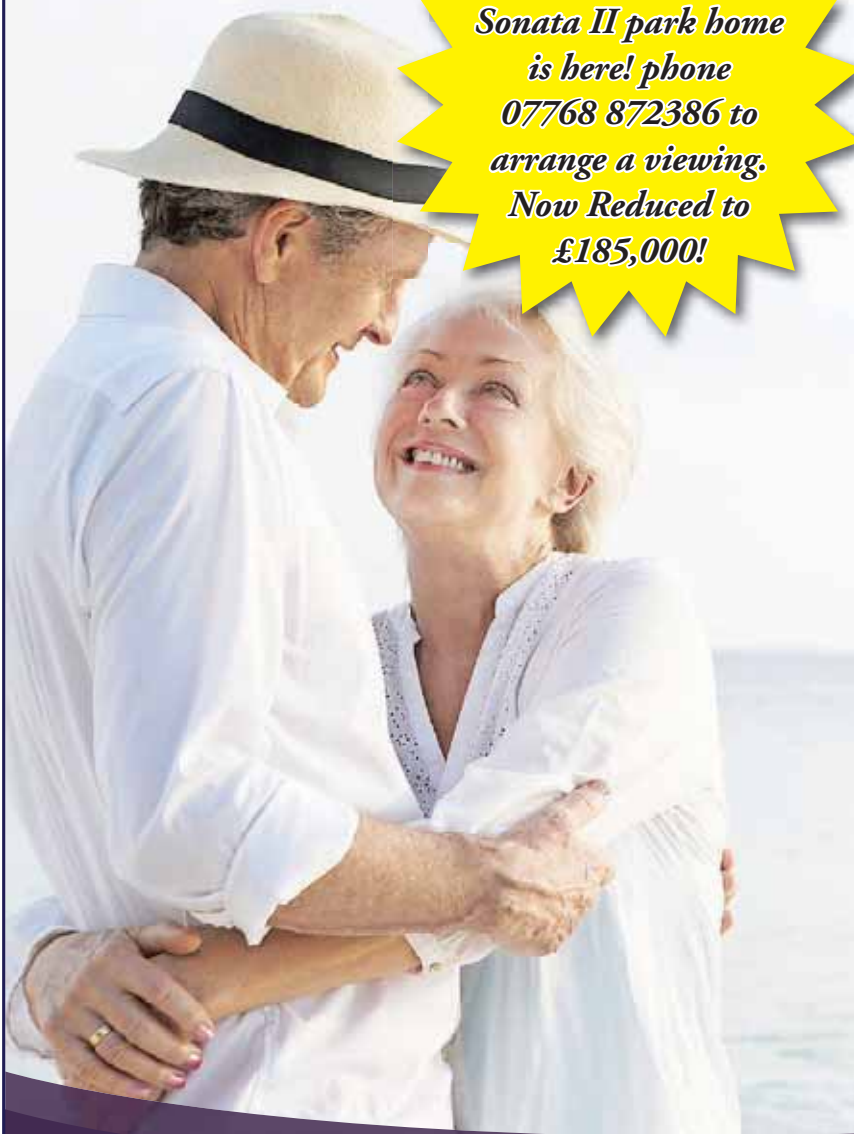
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**NEGOTIATIONS:** Home secretary Amber Rudd (above) struck a deal on border security while Natacha Bouchart, right, told us her intention to create a commuter train service within five years

# Calais metro link back on track as Rudd lays down border rules

French mayor wants cross-Channel commuter train service online by 2021, as **Tom Pyman** reports

**T**HE mayor of Calais says she wants to “be the pathfinder” in delivering a daily commuter metro between the French port town and Kent within the next five years.

Speaking at a conference in Ashford on Thursday morning, Natacha Bouchart stated her intention to put back on track plans for a much-talked about train link via the Channel Tunnel, to allow cross-border workers to commute in both directions more quickly and easily than on existing Eurostar and Eurotunnel routes.

And she said her sheer desire to make it happen would overcome any financial hurdle that may put off transport chiefs in the UK.

“I want to see us have this link in place in five years,” she told KoS.

“If you’ve got the will and desire, you can make these projects happen and that’s what I want to do.

“You [in Britain] always say ‘it’s far too costly’ and lose the argument.

“It’s a project which has been highly publicised and everyone thought it was a great idea but no one really wanted to make it happen.

“I want to be the leader, the pathfinder who can make it a reality.

“We have the tunnel, all the right railway technology, and it’s just 30 minutes between Calais and Ashford – it’s easier for us in Calais to come to Kent than to go to Lille.

“We could together, with this, set up companies and back offices either side of the Channel.

“I want to finally find the best way to deliver this project to the benefit of

our two areas, and maybe one day we can put it out to competition – why not?”

Mark Dance, Kent County Council’s cabinet member for regeneration, also welcomed the statement and suggested using old Eurostar trains as a way of getting a commuter link off the ground, while keeping costs down.

“We’ve been over to France and we know they’re very keen for this to happen,” he said.

“If you’re going on holiday or you’re going shopping, you’ve got time on your hands, but what if you’ve got appointments in northern France and then they tell you they’ve cancelled the train?”

“That network has got to be regular, like an English commuter service to London, and a metro can do that.

“But Eurostar have got new rolling stock so what about the old ones? Those trains know their way home, they’ve been doing it for 20 years, so can this be used in the argument over a metro link?”

“Then you have to look at how many you can have on that train to make it pay.

“Even if you’re only making a profit of £1 it wouldn’t matter because you’re giving a service and there’s no losses.

“If you’re looking at second hand rolling stock you want to get on it quickly, they’ve got the right signalling and we know they’ll work.

“That’s going to be major part of capital costs that you don’t have to find.

**“If you’ve got the will and desire you can make these projects happen, and I want to be the leader, the pathfinder to finally find the best way to deliver this project to the benefit of our two areas”**

**Natacha Bouchart,**  
Calais mayor on commuter link

“We know the Channel Tunnel is a success story and is running around 60 per cent of its capacity, so we know there’s room and it could happen.”

The mayor’s visit was intended to offer a hand of friendship to businesses in Kent, with relations appearing to somewhat fray since Britain’s decision to leave the EU in June.

Mrs Bouchart has previously called for Britain to take back its border in Calais and warned that the migrant jungle could move to Kent.

However, quizzed on whether her appearance in Ashford signified a change of opinion, she gave a brief, emphatic response: “I came here to talk about economics and changes with our two territories and I do believe it is a matter for our two governments to deal with this specific issue, and only them.”

The visit came after the home secretary also made the trip across the Channel where she struck an agreement with French officials at a summit in Paris to further secure ports and tunnels between Dover and Calais.

The governments of the two countries presented a united front after a meeting between Amber Rudd and her counterpart, French interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve on Tuesday.

It follows controversy over a proposal to allow migrants to lodge UK asylum claims on French soil – a plan dismissed by a Home Office source as a “complete non-starter”.

A joint statement from both governments after talks between Ms Rudd and Mr Cazeneuve in Paris said: “In the face of the challenges posed by ongoing migratory flows in Europe, and taking into account the migratory pressure in the Calais region and the particularly difficult humanitarian situation, we are committed to working together to strengthen the security of our shared border, to strongly diminish the migratory pressure in Calais and preserve the vital economic link supported by the juxtaposed controls in Calais.”

The two nations committed to a number of specific steps, including further securing the ports and tunnel in the region, addressing humanitarian challenges in Calais, continuing to work together to return illegal migrants in Calais who are not in need of protection and bringing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK when in their best interest.

The statement, which reaffirmed a commitment to closer cooperation on counter-terrorism, security and migration, comes after a long-standing agreement on border controls came under scrutiny.

Under the Treaty of Le Touquet, British immigration officials check passports in Calais while their French counterparts do the same in Dover – an arrangement known as “juxtaposed controls”.

On Monday, Xavier Bertrand, president of the Hauts-de-France Nord Pas De Calais-Picardie region, which includes Calais, said he wants a “new treatment” for asylum seekers trying to get to Britain from France.

He said: “If the British Government don’t want to open this discussion, we will tell you the Touquet Agreement is over.”

A Downing Street spokesman said local politicians in France occasionally called for changes to the Le Touquet arrangements, but that the Paris government’s continued support for the agreement was clearly restated last month in talks between Prime Minister Theresa May and French president Francois Hollande.

Asked about presidential hopeful Nicolas Sarkozy’s call for a processing centre in England to deal with asylum requests from those in Calais, the No 10 spokesman declined to speculate on the position of a possible future French administration.

He pointed out that it was Mr Sarkozy, in a previous stint as interior minister, who first struck the Le Touquet deal with the UK.



# Death highlights Channel swim risk

It remains an ambition for many and a remarkable feat by others. But, as Emily King reports, a tragedy last weekend once again underlines just how dangerous it is

**T**HE death last weekend of Nick Thomas a mile from the French coast, once again raised awareness of the enormous physical challenge of swimming a strait of water which has attracted so many to attempt such a gruelling crossing.

The 45-year-old was 16-hours into the marathon Channel swim when he fell unconscious.

It was a stark reminder that even the fittest of amateur athletes can struggle with the 21-miles stretch from Dover to Calais across the world's busiest shipping lane.

The crossing itself has been braved by swimmers for 140 years now and comes with so many challenges it can put many off; currents, sewage, cross-Channel ferries, extreme fatigue to name but a few.

So, why is the swim so appealing? And what dangers do the extreme athletes face?

Kevin Murphy is the honorary secretary of the Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation. He says successfully completing the swim "depends on the person" and the amount of training they commit to leading up to the task.

"If they're very fit, say competition pool swimmers, it may only take a year or six months to be ready," comments Mr Murphy. "But if they're training from scratch it could take up to two or

three years. The longer you train the more success you're likely to have."

As someone who has swum from Dover to Calais a staggering 34 times, Mr Murphy can undoubtedly vouch for the amount of training that needs to be put in, and also the challenges swimmers may face.

He says the sheer distance of the swim is probably the biggest challenge: "The distance is way beyond what you physically want to do and it takes all your will power to finish. But if it was easy there would be no satisfaction in completing it."

"The demons in your head are telling you, you can't do it, and you're constantly overcoming the hurt you're feeling in your muscles."

Chris Leek, 29, from Orpington, took on the challenge and completed the swim on August 26. For him, the biggest challenge was the temperature of the water: "Once the cold hits you, whether that's one hour or 10 hours into your swim, it never leaves. It's hard to think of anything else."

Mr Leek, who swam the Channel to raise money for research into Parkinson's Disease, had to halt his training at the beginning of 2016 when a shoulder injury resulted in surgery. He was out of action for months but decided to brave the swim anyway and got back in the water in

April, a mere five months before his planned crossing. He completed the swim with a time of 12 hours 9 minutes, around four hours ahead of the average, and has raised £14,600 for his chosen charity.

"I told my support team - 'If any of you get me out of the water [during the actual swim] we're over' - as nothing was going to stop me finishing," added Mr Leek. "When I got back in the water in April I was training twice during the week and then six or seven hours each Saturday and Sunday. The training became like a drug and I felt guilty if I skipped it."

Though there are obvious dangers to the endurance swim, Mr Murphy states that only nine people have died over the 140-year history, and that around 1,600 different people have successfully swum the Channel.

All of which made Nick Thomas' death all the more shocking. The sporting enthusiast had waded into the water in Dover on Saturday morning and was a mile from the finish and 16 hours through his swimming journey on Sunday morning, when he fell unconscious. He lost his fight for life later that evening in hospital.

Tributes poured in for the athlete from across the country, particularly from within the distance event



community and beyond.

He had been only the 19th competitor to complete the gruelling Arch to Arc Enduroman event - an 87-mile run from Marble Arch to Dover, a cross-Channel swim, and then a 181-mile bike ride to Paris and the Arc de Triomphe.

He died on his 45th birthday. His brother Lee, 43, spoke on behalf of his family from Shropshire. He said: "As a family we have lost a devoted husband, father, son and brother."

"The Enduroman team has lost #19, an achievement Nick was so proud of."

"We are all devastated and shocked that he's lost his life doing something he loved."

"It is awful that his solo Channel attempt was so nearly successful but has ultimately ended in tragedy."

"His success and achievements as an endurance athlete will never be forgotten by friends and family and he will be dearly missed by all who loved him."

Enduroman Events, the company devoted to helping athletes complete triathalons, paid tribute to Mr Thomas. It said: "Our friend Nick Thomas left us whilst doing something he loved - he just kept going. He'll always be a part of what we do and who we are."

The Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation also paid tribute on its website. A

statement read: "We in the distance event community lost a sporting soul."

"Aged 45, Nick has been taken away far too soon."

Yet his death highlights once again that however fit you are, the swim can take you to the limit.

"The challenge of this swim is not for the faint hearted," emphasises Mr Leek.

"Swimming the Channel is not like running a marathon, it is the equivalent of running four marathons back to back."

And Mr Murphy added: "Due to the tide the 21-mile swim turns into around a 25-mile swim instead."

But for those who have completed the swim, the sense of achievement is hard to emulate.

Mr Murphy said: "You get a real sense of achievement as you've overcome the odds. Whatever fears you've had, you've overcome them. As the first person to swim the Channel, Matthew Webb, said 'nothing great is easy'."

And Mr Leek concluded: "Before the swim, there were times when I'd just break down and cry. I constantly had this vision of standing on French soil, and that is what kept me going through my training."

"Finishing was an amazing feeling. You realise you can get through all those difficulties. I don't think there's anything else out there I can't do now."



**SPLASH:** Swimmers face a whole host of challenges during the 21-mile crossing





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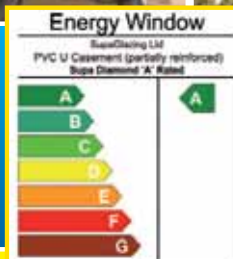
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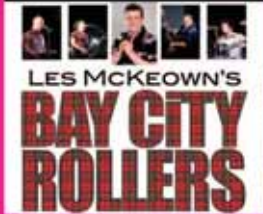
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# Chaos as M20 shuts again to clear collapsed bridge remains

For a second weekend running, a section of the M20 in both directions will be completely closed as work continues to clear the remains of the pedestrian bridge which was destroyed after it was hit by a passing lorry sparking huge delays

By Adele Couchman

[adele.couchman@archant.co.uk](mailto:adele.couchman@archant.co.uk)

THE future of the M20 footbridge that collapsed last Saturday remains uncertain as the Highways Agency continues to look at the "next steps" in restoring the half-dangling structure. Questions have been raised regarding the remains of the overhanging concrete bridge, which caused such chaos when it collapsed last weekend – causing enormous problems for busy bank holiday weekend travellers going to and from the ports.

A major police operation was initiated after a lorry transporting a digger hit the motorway

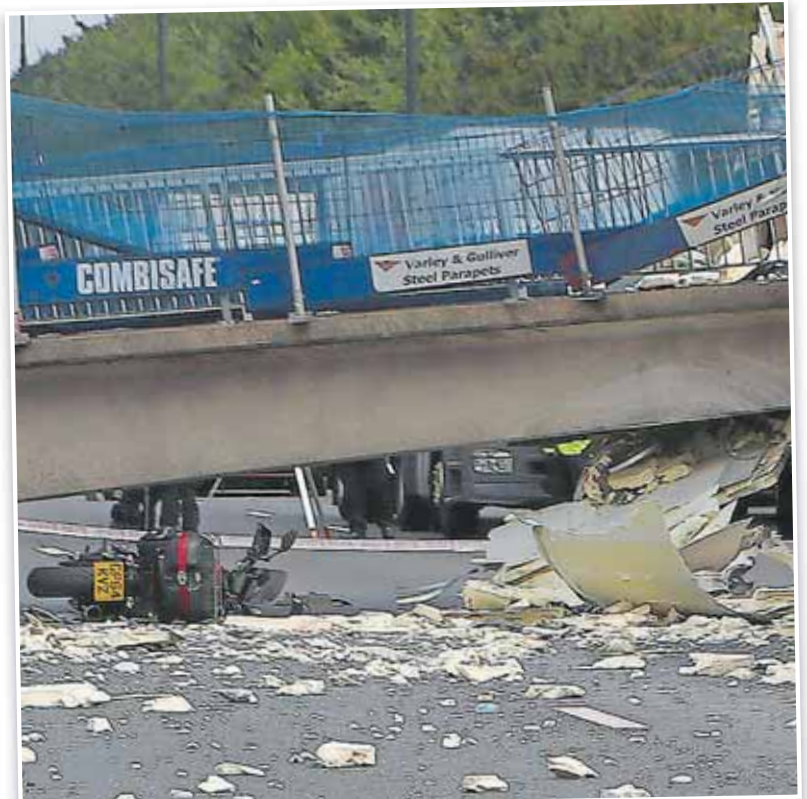
bridge, causing it to collapse between junctions two for Wrotham and Sevenoaks, and four for Leybourne.

Miraculously, no-one was killed as a result of the drama.

Kent Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit is continuing to carry out enquiries into the collision, which appears to have happened because the overall height of the lorry transporting the digger was greater than the standard 5.1 metre clearance of UK motorway bridges.

Alex Magaisa was driving past the lorry involved just as the bridge collapsed, with his wife and two young sons in the car.

They were on their way to Gatwick Airport to catch a flight to Belfast to see family for the



**ESCAPE:** The remains of Jim Shaw's bike after his miraculous escape last Saturday





**CARNAGE:** Shocking aftermath after lorry transporting a mechanical digger, far right, hit the bridge and sent it crashing down on to the carriageway over one of the busiest weekends of the year close to the village of Addington. The road, in both directions, will be closed again this weekend. All pictures: Steve Parsons/PA Wire.

bank holiday weekend.

The University of Kent lecturer, 41, said: "My instinct was just to drive through. My wife saw the bridge falling and there was a big noise. I had to manoeuvre through the debris.

"We stopped afterwards for about 30 minutes, and there was another car with a family behind us. Luckily no-one seemed to have been hurt.

"It was a big shock. It's only just starting to

sink in now what might have happened. We were right in the line of fire and we could have been crushed."

Emergency services said one motorcyclist had been taken to hospital in Tunbridge Wells following the incident.

Grandfather-of-three Jim Shaw, 73, suffered three broken ribs after a digger being carried on the back of a lorry struck the bridge.

Part-time school bus driver Mr Shaw, from Thamesmead, south-east London, was travelling at around 65mph on the London-bound carriageway.

He was heading home from a visit to a bikers' cafe in Maidstone on his Yamaha MT-07 when he was forced to take evasive action.

Speaking from his hospital bed, he said: "I didn't get a lot of time. One minute the bridge

was there and the next it wasn't. It all happened so fast. Initially all I saw was one end of the bridge come down.

"As the bridge came down, I threw the bike on the ground, and I ended up just clearing it. I was lucky. Everyone now keeps asking me to suggest their lottery numbers."

Mr Shaw revealed his wife Doreen, 68, only

**Continued on page 16**

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found out he had been taken to hospital in Tunbridge Wells after she rang him to ask him to bring the washing in.

"I told her, 'I won't be able to do that'," he said. "And she said, 'why not?' I said it's because I'm in hospital. She said she'd just seen a report about it on a big screen in Woolwich."

Mr Shaw said he is unsure whether his bike is still roadworthy, but the drama has not put him off returning to the roads once he has recovered.

"It's just one of those things," he said. "How often does a bridge fall down? It has certainly given the insurance company something to think about."

Andy Sunnucks, 24, who also saw the incident, said: "We were about 15 cars back on the same carriageway as the collision."

"It looked like a lorry had jackknifed, and I could see half the bridge was missing. We went to have a look and the back end of the lorry was in pieces."

The graphic designer, a passenger travelling from Maidstone to Sevenoaks, said: "The motorcyclist was laying down underneath his bike."

The collapse sparked hours of traffic chaos on one of the busiest weekends of the year, and the M20 only completely reopened to traffic some 24 hours after the incident.

Kent County Council says it has officially closed the footpaths leading to the bridge on the north and south parts of East Street, near Addington.

To give an indication of the time to replace the bridge, the paths have been given a six-month closure notice by the county council's highways' team.

Meanwhile Addington trader J Breheny Contractors Ltd has praised the efforts of Highways England for doing "their very best" in re-opening the motorway swiftly.

Contract director Richard Cottee said: "It's not the first time bridges have been hit. Although it was very dangerous the crews clearing up the bridge did a good job, yet I have no doubt this weekend's closure will affect those go-

ing to the Channel Tunnel."

Graham Baker, of Addington printing firm Scarbutts Ltd, said the business was fortunate it missed the chaos last Saturday, saying the current M20 closures over the weekend "will hopefully go back to normal for us on Monday morning".

Catherine Brookes, of Highways England, said: "Safety is our top priority. While we concentrated on reopening the road as soon as possible to help drivers, it was imperative this was done safely."

"The 50mph speed limit was introduced until work to remove the rest of the footbridge is complete. We thank drivers for their patience as we carried out this essential work."

The 50mph limit stayed in place until Friday when work began on clearing the remaining stump of the bridge (see box off).

Following Saturday's incident, a Ukip councillor on Shepway District Council highlighted how a number of smaller lorry parks could help ease congestion on our road network in the light of such events, rather than one large lorry park, which is currently proposed at Stanford, near Hythe.

Councillor Frank McKenna has argued local, accessible parks could temporarily ensure traffic to flow via local diversion routes when major events occur.

He said: "It's clear that Highways England are intent on delivering a pre-determined single lorry park at Stanford. One large lorry park is a more attractive investment for a contractor since it will be more profitable than a network of strategic smaller sites."

"We are saying that this issue is too important to be driven purely by profit."

■ The footbridge which collapsed onto the M20 motorway over the bank holiday weekend received bids of up to £66,000 on online auction site eBay just hours after pranksters submitted the 'item'. Some 52 people have submitted bids for the joke listing, which describes the condition of the structure as "for parts or not working".



**SLOW:** A speed limit was put in place on the carriageway under the remaining part of bridge

### MOTORWAY SHUT AGAIN THIS WEEKEND

MOTORISTS will have to look at alternative routes this weekend after highways chiefs confirmed the stretch of the M20 affected by last weekend's bridge crash will be closed in both directions.

From 8pm on Friday until 6am on Monday, both carriageways will be shut between junctions two and four to enable further work on at the footbridge that was hit last weekend, causing chaos over the bank holiday.

Now Highways England will remove the remaining section of the footbridge.

The diversion route for London bound traffic will be directed across to the M2 via junction seven (A249), junction six (A229) and finally junction four (A228).

The diversion route for coast bound traffic will be signed around the M25 to use the M2/A2.

There will be a solid closure on the M25/M26 as well as at junction 3 M25/M20 and on the fast slip on the M25 and on the M20 and M26 junction two.

"Please allow extra time for your journey," a spokesperson added.

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**POPULAR:** Crowds in Margate over the summer holiday underlined its increasing popularity. But is there a danger in the manner in which it attracts outsider investment?

# Growing pains of seaside towns and the gentrification process

**SPECIAL REPORT:** Increasingly, our coastal towns are looking to London to lure in a fresh breed to come and spend and invest. But is the effect having a major impact on the county's communities?

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

**A**S THE school summer holidays begin to wind down, things are not quite so hectic on Margate Main Sands as they were over the bank holiday weekend.

There are still plenty of children chasing footballs, kites and splashing in the water that glistens in the mid-morning sun, but the scene is somewhat calmer; there's a buzz but without the mayhem.

Perhaps Britain's most iconic seaside town, Margate is rapidly becoming home to your stereotypical capital hipster after one of the most significant regeneration boosts in recent history.

A rollercoaster history has seen the town go from being the ultimate British holiday destination in the 1960s and '70s to experiencing a dramatic decline, to now being something of a hub for a contemporary subculture.

Despite ongoing complications with its centrepiece ride and its finances, there's no doubt the restoration of Dreamland amusement park has been of huge economic benefit, with thousands flocking to the seaside resort in the summer months.

A pebble's throw over the beach of course stands the Turner Contemporary Gallery, universally hailed as a driving force that has brought this town up from its knees to a destination targeted by thousands of DFLs (Down From Londoners).

Bored of Shoreditch now that it's become too mainstream, bearded and tattooed twenty-somethings are instead heading down to the Kent coast – conveniently accessible in less than 90 minutes thanks to Southeastern's high speed trains – to get their fix of trendy bars, unorthodox restaurants and edgy art.

But while an influx of 'fresh money' is essential to kick-start revival, there is a growing sense among the native communities that their needs are being placed second behind those of the occasional visitor.

With tourism such a driver, it is understandable visitors are lured in. But it is when they are courted to live here too which can have an impact.

Margate is far from alone in this pursuit or the problems they cause. Folkestone is just a few steps behind as it looks to throw off its own decline with arts-led regeneration. And up on the north Kent coast, Whitstable has, in the

space of just 20 years, gone from modest working harbour town to one of the hottest towns in the country. In July, 80,000 people attended its annual Oyster Festival and house prices have sky rocketed, forcing families to leave and usher in a capital crowd.

A once functional high street is now jam packed with specialist food or drink outlets and fashion boutiques.

And that resentment of the gentrification of the area is bubbling just below the surface in all three areas.

Last month saw Margate become home to the smallest pub in Britain – precisely the type of unique selling point needed to attract those much-needed wealthy customers from the capital.

Owned by Andy Barrett and run day-to-day by Ali Noone, The Little Prince, hidden away inside The Old Kent Market – a revamped indoor market area directly opposite the Turner – pinched the crown of tiniest pub with its 11ft by 6.6ft (3m by 2m) interior, meaning approximately only six people at a time can fit in.

Ms Noone herself only moved down from London three years ago and was staggered by the change in the town she left as a youngster.

"When I left here 27 years ago I

hated this place, it was like a dump," she told KoS.

"Apparently it was really good in the '60s and '70s but then just died a death, and now it's been seriously revived.

"There's a really good vibe here, micropubs are popping up, the Old Town looks great, it really has changed a lot.

"Business for us has been quiet the last few days, dead slow, [we visited on Wednesday] but over the bank holiday it was banging.

"We're starting to get local regulars but people from all over the country are coming in, I guess it is quite an attraction.

"Even though it's so small it really feels like a pub, it's got a really cool vibe about it.

"We had people queuing to get in over the weekend when we've only been here a few weeks. Clearly word travels fast."

Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale agrees the so-called DFL rush has helped boost the town's fortunes.

"The Turner has had a dramatic effect on revitalising the area and in the Old Town there are no available properties," he said.

"There might be empty buildings at the moment, but they've been bought and will be used, they're not for sale.

Continued on page 20

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Continued from page 19

"This artistic regeneration is absolutely influenced by those DFLs but it's wrong to assume they are all middle class snobs.

"They come and use the Sands Hotel and there's demand for more hotel space, and ones of high quality, that's blindingly obvious.

"There's an assumption that the crowds at the Turner are not compatible with Dreamland and vice-versa but that's absolutely not the case, increasing numbers are visiting both."

Dreamland's very deliberate 'vintage' feel – part fuelled by necessity of super-tight budgets, but conveniently chiming with the apparent insatiable demand for all things 'retro' among the capital's trendsetters – is an interesting dilemma. Few would argue its image, and even pricing structure, has been designed very much to lure in the Turner visitor on their way back from the gallery to the railway station. Yet the financial collapse of the company which operated the park would perhaps suggest pandering to the taste of the DFL brigade has been a costly error rather than simply delivering a park which would pull in repeat local custom and provide a more compelling 'commercial' proposition to the people of the county.

However, while booming business elsewhere may appear to be only good news, it does come at a cost, and Margate could become something of a victim of its own success.

The increased interest of DFLs has seen house prices in the Thanet town driven up 12 per cent in a year, according to research by property website Zoopla earlier this summer.

Even Cliftonville, one of the most deprived wards in the county,



**REVIVED:** But did courting the London gallery crowd play a part in Dreamland's financial woes?

is seeing a knock-on effect.

Consequently, locals that have lived in the area for decades are at risk of being priced out of moving to another part of town or even

turfed out of rented properties.

"I was speaking to a couple who were down from London at the weekend, and they've bought a place in Cliftonville as an investment," Ms

Noone added. "Everywhere you go in the Docklands, there's big advertisements for Margate, because you do wonder how all these Londoners know about it.

"It seems like there's so many people moving down, they think 'oh wow it is pretty cool' and they want to stay and invest.

"This couple said there's a tenant in their property who has been there for eight years and ultimately they want to claim it back.

"So they've given them two years' notice which is pretty reasonable, but that's not going to happen across the board, people are going to be kicked out of their homes and I do feel for them.

"If someone comes in and says 'right we've bought the property and we need you out, you've got a couple of months to find somewhere else' that's so difficult for someone who's enjoyed living there for years."

Property prices are so often a bellwether of an area's fortunes. But while every house owner wants to see their investment rise in price, once again a boom often means a bust for families who have lived in certain towns for generations, but simply cannot afford to buy properties in a market where second homes or 'investments' are made by those for whom a one-bedroom flat in Chelsea equates to a six-bedroom detached down here.

Conservative MP Sir Roger told us there were both positives and negatives to an 'out with the old, in with the new' approach but that it important we remain alert to just where the county's limited housing stock is going.

"What happened in London, and what will happen in Margate, is these wonderful Victorian and Edwardian houses currently of multiple occupancy will be turned into family houses," he said.

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"If they come and put money into the area by buying these properties and renovating them, that's going to create jobs locally and it lifts the whole area."

"Yes, we have to build more houses, we don't want people living in a one bedroom flat in misery, we want them to have jobs, earn decent money and buy proper homes."

"But the danger is, if we are not careful, London boroughs will buy or rent from opportunistic landlords."

And there is a genuine danger – earlier this year Canterbury council chiefs were left fuming after losing out on 208 properties at the former Howe Barracks in the city to the London Borough of Redbridge which submitted a more comprehensive bid, as a result of its greater resources.

Therefore hundreds of families on the council's waiting list were piped to housing by people living some 60 miles away.

Sir Roger has previously warned that the district could become "a dumping ground" for the capital's population overspill and again told us he does fear "problem families" being dumped in Westwood Cross and at Manston, were Stone Hill Park's plans to regenerate the former airport site given the green light.

"I want to see Thanet homes for Thanet people where social housing is concerned," he said.

The good news is that Kent County Council's regeneration chief, Mark Dance, hinted that there could be more such housing on the horizon in the not-too-distant future.

"There are various options coming onto the table to sort out that situation [people being priced out] and we are loosely negotiating with others

for building a lot of starter homes," he told KoS, but declined to shed light on further details.

The aforementioned Cliftonville, barely a two minute drive up the hill from the arty seafront, is an area still suffering real deprivation.

There are some nice shops along the two-mile high street that is Northdown Road but these are interspersed between dozens of rundown, empty stores that, frankly, look like they're falling apart.

Signs on others are littered with misplaced apostrophes and incorrect grammar, another indication that things in this part of town just aren't as slick.

Nicknamed Kosoville by some locals due to the influx of Balkan residents, Thanet District Council (TDC) has described it as "an area that is suffering from high levels of crime and anti social behaviour, and a lack of cohesion in the community with a negative impact on the community and public services".

It was perhaps telling of the level of unease in the town that a recurring response among cafes and newsagents approached by KoS for comment on the contrast between Cliftonville and the arty Margate seafront was "I don't want to get involved".

Julie Dellar, a Ukip councillor for the Cliftonville West ward on TDC, told us she'd like to see investment distributed more equally across the district.

"It's starting to happen but it takes time and things aren't moving quickly enough," she said.

"There is negativity throughout the area and Cliftonville has been neglected for far too long."

"But it has the most beautiful prop-



**SMALL:** But packing a punch - The Little Prince in Margate is the nation's smallest pub

erties – I always describe them as skeletons, but we need to put the flesh back on and we do that by attracting some investment.

"There's two sides to [DFLs buying properties] – it depends on what they are buying them for.

"If they're just coming to do them up and turn them into bedsits as a second home, that's not beneficial, but if they're coming and really regenerating the area that can have a knock-on effect."

Ms Noone, from the Little Prince agrees the success of Margate in recent years will prove to be contagious, meaning the more deprived areas will soon reap the benefits also.

"It will infiltrate, it has to," she said. "Even if you go to the bottom of the hill at Cecil Square there are little shops starting to open up, so it's just a matter of time before it goes up the hill.

"It will grow, it can't stay like that. There's a lot of eastern Europeans there and it seems those families do

their own thing and keep themselves to themselves and don't really integrate and maybe that's why there's a problem.

"With the upsurge of Margate, I think the council will try and clean it up and step in whereas before they were happy to just leave it."

Cllr Dance added: "Cliftonville used to be the place to live in Thanet's heyday.

"When you look at the grandiose

**Continued on page 22**



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houses facing the sea with the greens in front of them and it's beautiful.

"So it's a sweeping statement to say it is deprived because street by street there may be issues, but some areas have totally changed.

"What we did, jointly with TDC, we bought properties that were houses of multiple occupation or were run-down and we've got an initiative called No Use Empty so if we see an empty property, we'll talk to a local builder, they'll take up the job and get it to a standard where it can be rented or sold.

"We have put an awful lot of time and effort into upgrading the existing property and we've done a good job.

"It's going to be a long, slow process but we're getting there."

The problem is far from exclusive to Margate, however, as wealthy opportunists from the capital will see homes at up-and-coming seaside towns across the county's coast as an investment.

Folkestone has undergone significant regeneration of its harbour and surrounding areas, largely thanks to the deep pockets of its Victorian-style benefactor Sir Roger de Haan – the billionaire former owner of his father's Saga empire.

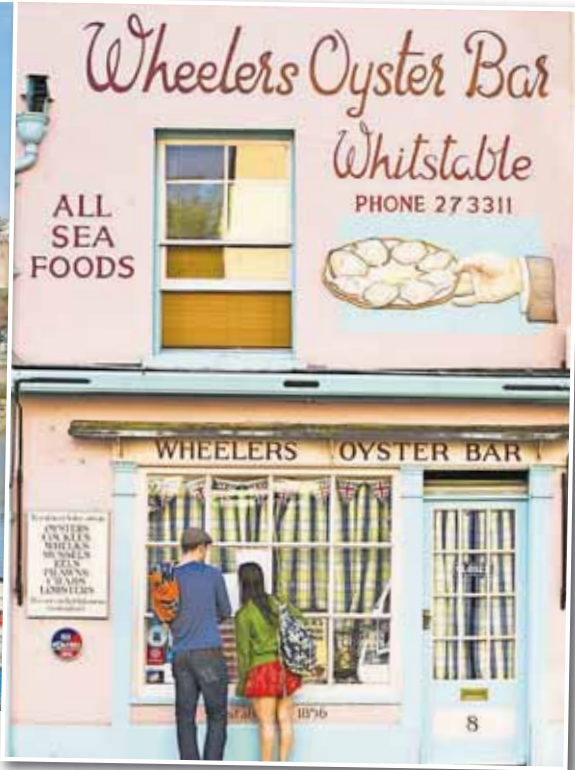
The trendy Rocksalt restaurant is popular with DFLs, as are the colourful, quirky little shops in the town's Creative Quarter.

However, Folkestone is still recognised by the Office for National Statistics as a deprived town and is also at risk of neglecting the needs of locals already settled there.

Of the houses being built on the seafront in one of its biggest projects, reportedly only around



**ATTRACTIVE:** Folkestone marina, above, and the distinctive pink exterior of the Wheelers Oyster Bar in Whitstable.



eight per cent will be affordable.

Jonathan Ward, a researcher in cultural labour at Leeds University, has written a paper on the creative regeneration of Folkestone and Margate.

He argues: "A misplaced policy emphasis is failing to support the labour and social relations on which the interpretation of places as 'creative' is

built, and arguably undermines the sustainability of an arts-based regeneration.

"This has implications for cultural policy, calling for greater attention to be paid to the specific locations in which it is deployed, and to the networks of producers whose labour is critical to its success."

Whitstable, meanwhile, has ap-

peared on the surface to have been one of the county's roaring successes in recent years, and Cllr Dance, who lives in the seaside town, says getting the word out there in terms of advertising is key.

"There are very successful places across the country, like West Mersey, which are trendy, and have made it as a seaside town like

Whitstable has," he said.

"But when you run a few miles across Essex to Brightlingsea, property prices plummet, but the moorings and the facilities for boats are fantastic, so are they marketing themselves properly?"

"The Whitstable story is interesting, it was generated from London, a straight train link from Victoria, and

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**GROWTH:** From left, plans for housing on the former Rotunda site in Folkestone. Margate's revitalised Old Town and thousands flock to Whitstable harbour

for years they were doing 'champagne and oyster runs', where they have too much to drink, have a few oysters and buy a plot of land.

"Those plots in Seasalter on the seafront are now worth about £500,000 each.

"What local people have done is a deal with the national press and as a result Whitstable has never ever really been knocked as an area."

Indeed, sitting on the high street is Wheelers Oyster Bar – the oldest restaurant in the town with a tiny oyster parlour and seafood bar that has received almost unanimously positive reviews online and is becoming increasingly popular with day-tripping DFLs.

Head chef Mark Stubbs told KoS: "The whole town has benefitted from it, I can't really see a huge negative, it creates jobs, a good atmosphere.

"Whitstable has always had artists

and musicians, we've always had the individual shops in the town, we're lucky enough to still have butchers, greengrocers, bakers, it's that kind of town, and with that there's history with the oysters, there's a real quirkiness to it.

"I don't think it's necessarily about getting more visitors down, Whitstable is only a certain size but if someone is doing something well then they should be promoted because if they're doing something to the best of their ability why shouldn't they get the acknowledgement?"

"It's not about drawing huge amounts of people to the town, if something is worth seeing, and worth coming to, let them make their own decision.

"You have to also give them potential – a reason to come back – whether it's a great beach, great shops or great people serving you behind the shops.

"It's not just about taking people's money, it's about making them feel welcome in the town and that's important."

On the harbour sits a row of huts, small businesses selling bread, fruit, milkshakes and, of course, seafood, trying to scrape a living from passing customers.

There's an upbeat community feel amongst them, but one trader admits, like Margate, Whitstable has suffered by appearing to shift its focus towards attracting Londoners, leaving locals alienated and suffering.

"For locals who are on low income, the rising house prices is a real problem, they're priced out," she told KoS.

"To buy a house here now, I think you have to be working in London and commuting to get the wages, or have two of you with really good jobs.

"I personally rent, and I don't look at house prices because

it's not something I can aim for.

"Everybody puts emphasis on buying a house but it should go back to what it was when councils build family homes or flats and studios for young people to rent, and when they're ready to move on, that can be available for somebody else.

"It's easy to become disengaged because local people don't matter."

There is simply no denying that for a town to really thrive, to deliver on promises, it needs fresh private investment – whether that is from employers or individuals. And given our proximity to London and the improving speed of services to the capital – Kent is, and always has been, an attractive proposition for those wanting to invest their wealth.

But if a town's prosperity means a chunk of the existing community has to be priced out to usher new blood in, the question has to be asked as to

whether that is truly positive and truly serving the needs of those communities.

Margate and Folkestone are both on the rise and while there has been some groundwork, the issue in both is to ensure the attractions and investments are as much designed to boost the local population as to lure in the DFLs.

Whitstable is almost mission complete. Try and move up from your three-bedroom terrace property as your family expand and unless you're on serious money, the leap is simply too great. Yet it is also a fabulous place to live and work. The question is whether those living and working there have much in the way of local or Kentish roots?

■ What do you think? Share your views and join the debate. Email [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk) or write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP.

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# Battle on to save heroic WW1 ship

HMS President has fought U-Boats and helped the French Resistance but she now faces her biggest challenge yet

**FIGHTING ON:** HMS President needs some £300,000 to escape the clutches of the scrap yard



By Chris Murphy  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**A**RARE First World War warship has been moved to Chatham as a last ditch effort to save her from the scrapyard gets under way.

The Lottery has already refused to pay the third of a million pounds needed to bring her back to her best.

Now HMS President is languishing at Chatham Docks hoping her owners can raise the money elsewhere.

The HMS President Preservation Trust say she is one of the last remaining three of her kind in the world. The others, HMS Caroline in Belfast and M33 is at Portsmouth.

The owners say after being refused Lottery funding of £330,000 to secure its future, things are looking desperate.

After she was towed to Chatham Docks, the commercial port separate from the historic dockyard, an appeal for money from the public and the

British government began.

The charity says its last resort hope is that Philip Hammond, the new chancellor, will release government funding to save her from being scrapped where she sits.

She was originally launched in Renfrewshire, Scotland, as HMS Saxifrage as a flower class vessel in January 1918.

During the Great War, the President was a secret German U-Boat submarine hunter under the control of Commander EJ Birch. These ships were known as Q Ships, which are disguised warships.

Her job was to shadow the Atlantic merchant convoys in the Irish Sea, North Sea and the English Channel off the Kent coast.

She would use her concealed four inch guns and depth charges to destroy any nearby subs. These guns were on platforms beneath deck and were raised hydraulically.

The ruse even included a seaman dressed as a woman on deck to add to the 'innocence' of the vessel.

One of them is now ritually

fired daily in Hong Kong at 6pm and is the subject of negotiations to have it returned to the President if she is saved.

It was thought a U-Boat captain would be reluctant to 'waste' a precious torpedo on a small merchant boat and would surface to engage with its own gun.

At that point, the Q Ship's guns would be raised and sink the attacking and vulnerable sub with ramming was also a serious option.

Later, when sub crews were aware of these tricks, ships like the President were given 'dazzle camouflage' and actively hunted the subs, rather than let them come to them.

The President remained in service into the Second World War and protected St Paul's Cathedral from the Luftwaffe and acted as a base for the French Resistance.

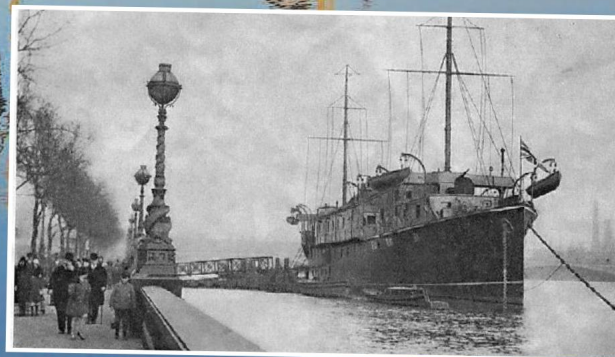
The President's sister ship, HMS Chrysanthemum was scrapped in 1995 after rust and salt damage took a terminal toll.

Recently the President needed to be moved from its 92-year mooring at London's Victoria Embankment to storage at Chatham Docks in Kent, where it awaits refurbishment of its hull.

The charity says the City of London Corporation has in principle given its support to a new mooring for the President adjacent to London Bridge on the north bank of the River Thames.

However without funding, the trustees of the charity are unable to move anything forward.

The President is planned to be a key part of the centenary events to mark the end of the Great War



in 2018 as it celebrates its own centenary that year.

The charity says it has won the support of numerous senior politicians and peers, the military and related organisations and charities such as the National Maritime Museum of the Royal Navy, 14-18 Now and the National Historic Dockyard.

Prime ministers have described HMS President as 'part of Britain's heritage', it claims.

Jeremy Hunt, when culture media and sports minister, said she was "a national treasure", and David Evennett, minister for heritage, confirmed she made a "compelling case for funding".

However despite this support, the Heritage Lottery Fund said although "the application was fundable" it was considered "too high risk". They have, however, encouraged the President charity to apply again.

Gawain Cooper, chairman of the charity, said: "Our trustees are bitterly disappointed that with all the public support we have, and after having been en-

couraged by a senior director of the Heritage Lottery to reapply for the £330,000, that again we were refused support. This decision will most likely condemn the President to the scrap yard."

Now as that last resort looms, the charity has launched an appeal and application to the Treasury for government funding and it is hoped that new chancellor, Philip Hammond will now step in and save her.

Making a case that there is plenty of cash swilling around the Treasury coffers, Paul Williams, the director of the charity, said: "The Treasury fined the major banks thousands of millions of pounds for their fixing of labor and exchange rates and this money is being distributed to various worthy charities. We feel we make a good case for some of this money."

■ Supporters can help through Justgiving.com and by signing a petition to the government here <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/163742>







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SEE PAGE 35

Trends for those wishing to revamp their home



SEE PAGE 37

Insights into the veg that grows best in autumn



# Homes & Gardens

## Moving from summer to autumn

Read our guides to the latest interior design trends and what to plant in your garden as the seasons change...

**W**ELCOME to our latest edition of Homes and Gardens. Although we haven't yet finished summer, the kids have now gone back to school, and it may be time to start thinking about how you can get your home and garden ready for autumn.

With the days getting shorter, we will soon be going to work in the dark and coming home in the dark, so perhaps brightening up the inside of our home might be the answer.

Or planting some warm autumn vegetables might keep the cold at bay, well, at least when you're eating.

Autumn doesn't seem like the best time to sell your house, so why not make the home you currently have as comfy and warm as possible, because let's face it, a Kent autumn can be a cold one.

Now the little ones have gone back to school, and sports clubs have started up again on the weekends, it could be your chance to spend some extra

time to yourself to make the improvements you want to make before the cold weather really sets in.

In this edition, we'll be sharing the thoughts of an interior designer's ideas on this season's trends.

She'll explain how to keep your home 'homey' while adapting some of the latest trends, and will also advise on where you can find them on the high street and online.

To find out more, turn to pages 35 and 36.

For those of you who grow your own veg, or want to but think you've missed your chance with summer coming to an end, we'll be advising on what vegetables are best suited to the autumn climate, and what veg still stands a chance if this September stays warm.

For more, turn to pages 37 and 38.

We hope you enjoy this supplement and it gives you the insight you need to get your home and garden ready for autumn.

Continues over page



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## Add a dash of pizzazz to your home

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

**D**ECORATING your home is an opportunity to mix comfort with personal style, and surely most people want both? If you've got one, but not both then you're undoubtedly missing out.

Before taking the plunge and revamping your home's interior, you might want to look at what's on trend and if any of those designs take your fancy.

Founder of Furnished By Anna, Anna Ward-Evans, says trends don't mean themes: "Overall, people are wanting things to last, but also do want more personality too."

"Lots of styles mix together rather than having to be from the same trend. This season people want their interiors to be exciting as well so that they don't look like something everyone has."

Colours incorporated into rooms are a big thing to think about as well and Mrs Ward-Evans adds: "People definitely want more colour around, they're being braver with it too. They're choosing patterned sofas and rugs again rather than keeping things plainer."

On trend interior designs seem to have taken five directions, but this gives you five different interiors for five different rooms. This is, of course, if you're feeling ready to embrace the trends.

### Timeless and elegant

This perhaps works if there's a certain era you really like, or a time of life you felt comfortable in, giving your home a comfort personal to you.

"Still a huge favourite, but moving away from the show home feel and towards more personality, showing off who actually lives in the space," says Mrs Ward-Evans.

For this type of space Mrs Ward-Evans suggests keeping the "basis of the scheme in one or two neutral colours – whether shades of grey, blue or soft warm cashmere – and then adding a mix of elegance with materials like bronze, marble and velvets in the furniture to



**TRADITIONAL AND MODERN:** Patterns and colours create a bright but comfortable feel.

Credit: Ryan Wicks Photography

create a rich, plush feel."

Shapes and form are also a big focus when trying to give a space a timeless feel. The shape of a sofa can add interest and definition. "A curved sofa is fantastic if you have the space, and plantation-style such as shutters, and real wood flooring, always make a really gorgeous take on timeless," suggests Mrs Ward-Evans.

**Continued on page 36**



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# Homes & Gardens

Continued from page 35

## Traditional and modern

You might love aspects of older properties but may not want to make the interiors too dated and old for you. Well, this is where mixing traditional with modern comes in, enabling you to live in an Edwardian house but one packed with mid-century furniture so it feels current and modern.

"Upcycling is good for this and salvaging and reclaiming means people find their furniture has age to it and they haven't spent a penny on anything new," adds Mrs Ward-Evans. "A carefully curated mix of new, older and classic can make for a great scheme, and wallpaper and fabric companies have been tapping into this



for a while – taking old patterns like damasks and putting modern colours on them." For wallpapers like this visit websites for companies including Blackpop Wallpapers, Mulberry Home, and House of Hackney.

## Leafy, green and botanical

This may not only be worth considering for your bathroom, but may bring some vibrancy to other rooms in your home such as the living room.

Botanical looks will bring the garden and the tropics into your home and there are many subtly beautiful ways to do this. Tropical or leafy fabrics for curtains, and bold wallpapers, such as those from Timourous Beasies, and Matthew Williamson nail this trend.

Mrs Ward-Evans also says you can be more discreet with this scheme too with "a ton of potted palms, ferns and grasses."

She adds: "Go big with your plants. They add texture as well as a burst of colour. Terrariums and bell jars are great for making more of a statement of smaller, easy to keep plants like cactuses. Faux is also awesome and high quality faux plants are fantastic for achieving the look easily."

## Neon

Scary thought though the word "neon" may be, it can make for an interesting look in your home.

"Bright pops of neon are awesome at adding edge to an interior, whether it's through neon light tubes or letters



**TIMELESS/BOTANICAL:** Old and botanical makes this room ooze class.

Credit: Ryan Wicks Photography.

hung up on the wall, it makes a real statement," enthuses Mrs Ward-Evans. "Strong paint colours can work well too for younger bedrooms."

"Neon can also come through in accessories, with perspex mirrors coloured with neon edging, and neon message signs – perhaps neon inspirational message signs."

Margo Selby, a textile artist based in Whitstable, works with neon designs, visit, her site [www.margoselby.com](http://www.margoselby.com)

## Pink


Over the years, it seems everyone has learnt to "give in" to pink. Though once deemed a "girly" colour, it's taking off and when it comes to interiors it's about to go big.

Paint and wallpaper manufacturer, Little Greene, are about to launch a new paint card that is just a selection of pink paint colours. They did this with grey, and then blue, the colours that have already taken off and been a hit

recently in interior design.

Mrs Ward-Evans says: "Pink is a really versatile colour on walls and has so many tones, from bubblegum pink to dusky rose, each one giving a different ambience. Ochre (a type of yellow) is also set to become a huge trend, and pink, ochre and grey look fantastic together."

■ To contact Anna Ward-Evans, visit [furnishedbyanna.co.uk](http://furnishedbyanna.co.uk) or email [anna@furnishedbyanna.co.uk](mailto:anna@furnishedbyanna.co.uk)




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## Make head start with autumn vegetables

By Hannah Stephenson  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**A**RE your vegetables looking a little stunted, jaded or straggly this summer? If so, you won't be alone.

"Summer has only just started, Mediterranean-style," garden expert Pippa Greenwood observes.

"A lot of plants are really behind because we didn't have the run-up we needed," says Greenwood, a regular on BBC Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time. "The beginning of summer was wet, gloomy and cold. As veg catch up, many will become stressed because it's too hot for them."

If courgettes get too dry and under stress from drought, they conserve energy by forming lots of male flowers which are no good if you want fruits, she says.

The early part of summer which was wet may have also set pollinators back, so many fruits may have been pollinated later.

The sudden hot weather may cause lettuce, spinach and herbs such as coriander to bolt (set seed), making them no good for eating, while slugs have stripped many leafy veg bare.

If your veg are beyond saving or you've harvested your crops and now have vacant ground, it may be time to think about autumn veg. 'Garden ready' plants, which look like plug plants, are widely available and already have a healthy root system.

"If you get veg plants in the ground in September, they can sit there, hold the soil together over the winter and be ticking over," says Greenwood, who has launched a 'Winter thru' Spring' Collection of vegetables.

Here are some of Greenwood's favourites for September planting:

■ **Broad beans:** "Very few people plant broad beans in September, but if you do you'll see that they really do get ahead. Get them in September as small plants, overwinter them with a fleece-covered tunnel in the worst of the winter. Then plant another batch early in the year and you'll have a much longer cropping period as the ones you planted in September will be ready to harvest several weeks before the ones you planted in the spring." Support bean plants through the winter with canes and twine.

■ **Radiccio:** The dark red, almost burgundy-coloured leaf which adds colour and flavour to salad can be planted in September and looks great as an ornamental plant as well as tast-



**GREEN VEG:** Broad beans will get a head start if you plant them in September

ing good. "It's the richest burgundy red with white veins. When you plant it, it is often green with slight purple streaks, but as it grows it will pink up and then go red once it's hit by really cold weather." If you plant it in September, you may be eating leaves within six weeks to two months, depending on the weather. When the

weather turns really cold, cover it with fleece tunnel to protect the leaves.

■ **Japanese onions:** Buy them as small plants in a cell in September. Plant the cell, which usually contains between three and five little onion plants, in its entirety, about 40cm apart. The plants inside will elbow each other apart to form a clump of

onions. They need to be kept moist in September - but don't feed them - and are maintenance-free in winter, growing rapidly in spring. Keep rows weeded and watered in dry weather and you should be harvesting them by summer, when the foliage starts to yellow. The bulbs are visible largely above ground.



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# Homes & Gardens

## ■ Purple sprouting broccoli:

"It's a very pretty plant, with beautiful purple spears and is incredibly good for you in terms of vitamin content and is also easy to grow. Put small plants in in the autumn and firm the soil really firmly around the base of the plant or it won't crop as well." Brassicas need firm soil. As they grow, they can be loosened by heavy rain and wind and will need re-firming. Protect from pigeons with a poly tunnel when the plant is young. They should be ready late spring, depending on conditions.

With the wealth of pests there have been this year, Greenwood warns: "If you are taking delivery of tender small plants in September, try to sort out the slug population beforehand.

"Put down Nemaslug ([www.nemaslugdirect.co.uk](http://www.nemaslugdirect.co.uk)), the nematode, as a drench, on to the area you are going to

plant up. A small pack will serve 40-square metres which is plenty of space for a lot of veg and it lasts really effectively in the soil for six weeks, often a bit more.

"Apply it just before you put your autumn veg in, which gives the plant six weeks to toughen up and become a lot less appetising to pests. The more slugs you sort out in the autumn, the fewer there are in the spring."

■ More information available from [www.pippagreenwood.com](http://www.pippagreenwood.com)

## BEST OF THE BUNCH - lily

Lilies are the fragrant stars of mid-summer, their bold flowers releasing a heady scent which fills the air. Beautiful in patio containers where visitors can inhale their rich scent or in borders where the taller, bolder varieties can be admired from afar, the

oriental hybrids often growing to more than 1.2m. Dwarf patio lilies such as Lilium 'Mona Lisa' are ideal for pots, while trumpet lilies such as the white L. regale look fabulous in the middle of a border. They like well-drained fertile soil in full sun. Plant lily bulbs in spring as soon as you get them, burying them at least three times their depth and 15-20cm apart.

## GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT - Ripening tomatoes

If your tomatoes are still green, they probably need more warmth and sunshine to help ripen them. We can't always provide that here, but you can do a few things to help. As the fruits set, remove the yellowing lower leaves up to the first truss. When these have ripened, the next set of leaves can be taken off. As a general rule, only remove leaves below the trusses, although if they are really congested, a little thinning may help to promote air circulation. A month before the end of their cropping season, cut off the growing tip of the plant or, in bush tomatoes, take out the tip of every main stem. By stopping the growth, energy will be transferred to remaining fruits to reach full size. And if you have green tomatoes at the end of the season, put them in a paper bag with a banana to help ripen them.



**WARM:** Tomatoes can still ripen



## What to do this week

- Pinch out the growing tips of wallflowers for bushy plants.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs to plant in the autumn.
- Continue to deadhead regularly to encourage more flowers and water containers every day.
- Apply a high potash liquid feed to dahlias, water regularly and tie in new growth to stakes.
- Sow Brompton stocks now for flowering under glass.
- Stop outdoor tomatoes when they have set four trusses. Leave at least two leaves above the top truss to draw sap.
- Propagate floribunda and

- specie roses by semi-ripe cuttings taken from shoots which haven't carried flower.
- Moisten dry material you add to your compost bed to speed decay and add a proprietary accelerator to help the process.
- Harvest crops including courgettes and beans when they are young, to encourage the plants to produce more flowers and fruits.
- If you're going on holiday, group container plants together in a shady spot in the open, to make them easier for a neighbour or relative to water in your absence, and also reduce evaporation.

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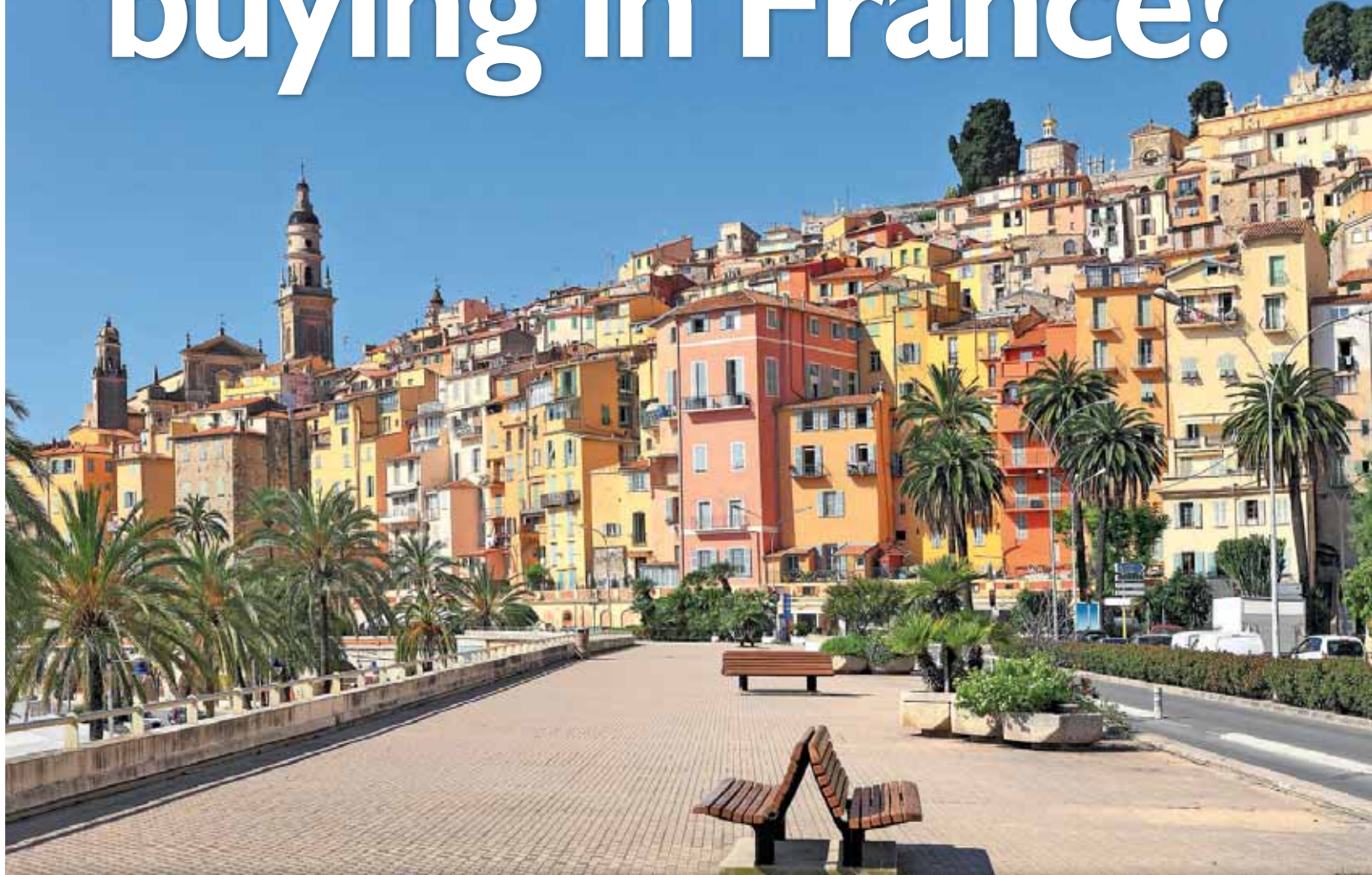
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**SOLO:** The star will be bringing his Right Here tour to Tunbridge Wells

## Westlife singing star pleases fans with extra tour dates

**Shane Filan has added second leg to one-man tour following huge fan demand**

**H**AVING split from Westlife in 2011, Shane Filan has embarked on a solo music career.

Following on from his first solo album, *You and Me*, Mr Filan set about writing his next.

He said: "With the second album I wanted to just take the next step."

"I started writing it in January 2015 and it took me six or seven months to complete."

"I spent a lot of time in London and Denmark recording, and as always I was excited about the finished product."

The second album, *Right Here*, is the reason for Mr Filan's *Right Here* tour, but it isn't the primary reason behind his tour's second leg.

The first leg of the tour finished in March 2016 and it was recently revealed that Mr Filan is embracing a second leg of the tour throughout

the UK, Ireland and Asia.

"My fans decided where the tour went on the second leg as it was due to their demand that the second leg happened," said the artist.

"It was important to me that we don't go to the same cities again, so my promoter went out to the fan base online and asked them where they'd like to see me."

Believe it or not, Mr Filan, and Westlife are a huge hit in Asia, and the singer claims Asia is an "important market" for him.

"Westlife were massive over there, and I always get a great welcome. I try to visit four to five times a year," adds Mr Filan.

While this second leg may be of the same title as the first leg of the tour, Mr Filan states that the "set list is similar" but not the same as the first leg. Perhaps this will prompt fans who saw the singer live

at the beginning of the year to join him in concert again towards the end of the year.

Having taken his wife and children on his last leg of the tour, we asked if Mr Filan will be doing the same thing his time around, to which he laughed: "For some of the tour, but because they're back at school it'll be weekend shows. They're very excited."

"When they can't join me, like when I'm in Asia, there's a lot of FaceTiming, but I do go home as much as possible as I pick and choose what work to take."

"I want to be able to take them to their football matches."

Back in July the artist sang alongside music legend Lionel Richie.

Speaking of the concert on Mr Filan's home soil of Ireland, he says "I was chuffed to do it. We performed

to an Irish crowd of 20,000, and Lionel is amazing, he's a legend and a gentleman."

"I got to spend with him for around 20 minutes in his dressing room after the show."

When asked if he misses performing as a part of Westlife, Mr Filan comments: "I don't miss it, it's different. I'm still singing which is what I love."

"Westlife was phenomenal, but I work with a great band now who I get more involved with."

"I love being in front of a crowd. It's what I get up every morning for."

The *Right Here* tour is coming to Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre for one night only on October 21.

To book tickets call the box office 01892 530613 or visit [assembly-halltheatre.co.uk](http://assembly-halltheatre.co.uk)

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**TAMLA**, naughty but nice, curvy kitten! I am 46yrs and love to have some fun. Dates/Chats, something different. Pls call me. Text Only Box: 4185035

**GENUINE**, GSH, attractive, outgoing professional female, 55. Enjoys keeping fit, socialising and travel, WLTm similar male for relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5453851

**MATURE** lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising, WLTm similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421427

**REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.**

**KIND**, caring lady of African origin, living in UK for past 20 years, looking for a gentleman who is kind and caring, must have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421041

**LUCY**, 32, blonde, tall and slim, looking for a casual fling, nothing serious. Discretion needed and assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420237

**ANGELA**, 53, African origin, looking for a kind, genuine, caring gentleman, 60 years +. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421039

**ORIENTAL** lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLTm a reliable, sincere man for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5443434

**FEMALE**, young 58, 5ft2, size 14, blonde, bubbly, GSOH, warm, loving, kind and caring, loves music, animals, seaside, looking for that special someone. Text only Mailbox: 4715158

**GENUINE** single female 49, seeking good-natured, intelligent, polite, single male for friendship/relationship. Text only to Mailbox: 4198603

**MARION**, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657

**CHANTELLE**, 5ft3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

**SINGLE** slim female, 68, n/s, GSOH, likes cooking, walking etc, seeks male, single, slim 65-70, n/s, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420091

**SLIM** female GSOH, 5'3, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600

**KIND** lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889

## Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**mydate24**

**LIVELY** old boy, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yo. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621

**MALE**, 53, 5ft6, single, hardworking, looking for slim/small lady, 40-56. Maidstone, Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423663

**OUTGOING** male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414793

**ANDREW**, 50, slim to medium build, lives in Ashford/Kent area, WLTm a women, 40-70, for discreet fun, would be great to hear from you so get back to find out more! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423271

**SLIM**, 5ft 6 white male WLTm 18 to 42 year old lady for friendship. Text only Mailbox: 5441709

**GENTLEMAN**, 76yrs old, clean-shaven with a good head of hair and a smart dresser, hoping to meet lady for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423645

**DAVE** genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

**BRIAN**, 6ft3, fit, bit grey but genuine and kind, looking for a naughty female, for no strings adult fun, if you're interested please get back to me, ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423483

**HELEN**, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

**SARAH** 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

**MARIE**, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

**RACHEL** late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

**HELLO** my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905

**SUGAR** Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady, age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

**WRITER**, tall, slim, fit, natural dark hair, generous, seeks lady for erotic rendezvous, I will make it worth your while! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422777

**49YR** old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

**REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.**

**LOCAL** Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127

**PAUL** 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

**MALE**, 54, shyish, looking for fun times with a lady, 60-70, with GSOH, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422431

**PROFESSIONAL**, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

**CHRIS**, from Folkestone, 71, 5ft9, widower, green eyes, lonely, n/s, OHAC, likes gardening, the coast, pubs, dining out, holidays, cruises, days out, WLTm similar lady to share interests, can travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422375

**48YR** old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

**PHILLIP**, 66, into farming and country life, looking for a loyal, genuine lady, someone I can trust to go on holidays with and spend time together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422699

**TONY**, early 60s, 6ft, slim, fit, easy going, looking for no strings fun with a lady, age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422643

**TALL** single early 60's male looking for pure hearted lady for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5496781

**HANDSOME** male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587



**PAUL** GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

**HARLOW** male, 40, kind, attractive, happy, considerate looking to meet slim female for LTR, children welcome. Text only Mailbox: 5468389

**FRIENDLY** passionate male, 55, 6ft, medium build, clean, discreet, lots of TLC to offer, seeks female for fun times. Canterbury Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381222

**PAUL** 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

**MIKE**, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, nice meals out, holidays, WLTm someone to share interests and quality time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422329

**COLIN**, 56, 6ft, medium build, clean and tidy with a tidy beard, I'm after some TLC with no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422359

**EASY** going, friendly guy, slim, n/s, likes the outdoors, gardening, cinema, theatre, music, WLTm a nice guy, 50-60s. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422741

**BI** guy heavy build, WLTm assertive adventurous white or Indian guy for mutual pleasure. Text only to Mailbox no: 4321273

**BI** male, aged 54 seeks similar for friendship and fun. Text only Mailbox: 4623598

**TOBY**, 41yrs, recently divorced, now seeking different relationship, bi curious but not gay, like minded to me, any age. Text Only Box: 4125006

**PETER**, 85, 5ft6, semi retired, WLTm a man for casual meets, nothing too heavy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423423

**FEMALE** seeking genuine straight female for daytrips, out to meet socially for lunch/coffee. Text only to Mailbox No: 4748240

**MALE**, 55 looking for mature lady for outings and adult fun, easy going, GSOH, nice looking and a bit shy. Text only Mailbox: 4922399

## Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**MALE** looking for male, 30-60 for no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406049

**EASY** going, friendly guy, slim, n/s, likes the outdoors, gardening, cinema, theatre, music, WLTm a nice guy, 50-60s. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422741

**BI** guy heavy build, WLTm assertive adventurous white or Indian guy for mutual pleasure. Text only to Mailbox no: 4321273

**BI** male, aged 54 seeks similar for friendship and fun. Text only Mailbox: 4623598

**TOBY**, 41yrs, recently divorced, now seeking different relationship, bi curious but not gay, like minded to me, any age. Text Only Box: 4125006

**PETER**, 85, 5ft6, semi retired, WLTm a man for casual meets, nothing too heavy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423423

## Friends

**FEMALE** seeking genuine straight female for daytrips, out to meet socially for lunch/coffee. Text only to Mailbox No: 4748240

**MALE**, 55 looking for mature lady for outings and adult fun, easy going, GSOH, nice looking and a bit shy. Text only Mailbox: 4922399

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# Canterbury woman with ME to release her debut music album

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

**H**AVING been diagnosed with ME, following a 10-month stretch of illness, in November 2011, Jude Adams, 57, from Canterbury, thought her new-found passion for performing was over.

Ms Adams has always loved to sing but due to a lack of confidence this was only in private. However, encouraged by her partner, around the age of 50 she decided to take up singing lessons.

These lessons built a new found confidence which led to Ms Adams singing in front of 100 friends and family. Following this she started to perform at venues in her local area.

This all came to an end when Ms Adams was diagnosed with ME.

"Life as I knew it came to a stop and it had to change," recalls Ms Adams. "I tried to keep going with the performing and my interior design business but physically I couldn't do it."

As a result, the enthusiastic singer has been unable to perform for the last five years. But this hasn't stopped her passion. With having ME it was advised that Ms

Adams keep a journal of feelings, and she claims these journal entries soon turned into songs. "They evolved into poems and song lyrics.

"I have no musical background, I don't play any instruments, but when I'd write lyrics, I'd imagine a tune and then sing this into my phone."

Ms Adams soon started lessons with a new music teacher who believed the lyrics and songs were worth recording and so her album stems from there.

This Girl, This Woman is an album made up of '60s style songs, though Ms Adams is quick to chime that it's "not flower power", though they were written during a "reflective time".

When looking back on recording she states that "recording was a massive undertaking" due to the physical strain on her health but she hopes for positive outcomes of the album.

Ms Adams hopes the album will mean her music and story will be shared with a broad audience.

"If I can inspire one person to feel as though they can get creative despite their age or a health issue, it would be more than a dream come true."

This Girl, This Woman will be released after Ms Adams performs at Creek Creative in Faversham on September 10.



**PASSIONATE:** Jude Adams hopes her album will encourage others

## Fureys in Margate

IRISH musicians and songwriters, The Fureys, will play in Margate on May 6, 2017.

Eddie and George Furey have recently released a new album.

For tickets, visit [theatreroyal-margate.com](http://theatreroyal-margate.com)



## Rumplestiltskin's story

FAMILY 'pageant opera' The Rattler is coming to the Gulbenkian with Mahogany Opera Group.

The Ratter is a retelling of the classic Rumplestiltskin story, accompanied by songs.

The show will take place on September 4.

More information can be found at [mahoganyoperagroup.co.uk/productions/the-rattler/](http://mahoganyoperagroup.co.uk/productions/the-rattler/)

## Show Me Chris and Pui

CBEEBIES presenters Chris and Pui are bringing their Show Me, Show Me show to the Orchard Theatre in Dartford on September 18.

For tickets, visit [orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://orchardtheatre.co.uk) or call 01322 220000.



## You Me At Six to rock

BRITISH rock band, You Me At Six are coming to Folkestone and tickets to see the band are on sale now.

The 2016 tour sees the band playing all over the country with Folkestone as their only Kent date, on October 5 at Leas Cliff Hall.

For tickets, call 0844 871 3015

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## It's harvest time in Ashford

TAKING place on September 4 on the cobbles of the lower High Street, you'll find traders selling fresh, home grown goods.

Confirmed traders include, Enzo's Bakery, Sugar & Spice, and Kingswood Cider.



## Torme's Love Songs Project

JAMES Tormé returns to Margate for one of three exclusive performances of his new Love Songs Pjoeect show.

This is Tormé's tip of the hat to the greatest love songs ever written.

For tickets to his Margate show on September 30, call 02074 394962.

## Revelation for Blair Dunlop

BLAIR Dunlop will be coming to Ashford's Revelation St Mary's Church as the support act for Jon Boden, on November 12.

To purchase tickets, call 07548 679 199 or visit revelationstmarys.co.uk.



## Tonbridge Lions Club

A CHARITY band concert is to be hosted by the Tonbridge Lions Club on October 29 at The Science Theatre.

The concert will support Hospice in the Weald and Children's Liver Disease Foundation in Tunbridge Wells.

For tickets, call 07885644373

# A one-off sensational '60s music experience

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

**F**OR one night only, seven '60s names are coming to perform in Bromley. This feel-good show will star acts such as

Herman's Hermits, Chris Farlowe, The Swinging Blue Jeans, The Fortunes, The Ivy League, The New Amen Corner, and Alan Mosca from Freddie and the Dreamers.

The line-up is crammed with hits such as Herman's Hermit's I'm Into Something Good, Something is Happening, No Milk Today, I'm Henry the 8th, Silhouettes, and Mrs Brown You've Got A Lovely Daughter; Chris Farlowe's Handbags and Gladrags, and Out Of Time; The Fortunes' You've Got Your Troubles, and Here It Comes Again; The Swinging Blue Jeans' Hippy Hippy Shake, Don't Make Me Over, and You're No Good; The Ivy League's That's Why I'm Crying, and Funny How Love Can Be; New Amen Corner's Bend Me Shape Me; and Alan Mosca's I'm Telling You Now, You Were Made



For Me, If You Gotta Make A Fool Of Somebody, and I Understand.

From 1964 Herman's Hermits chalked up more than 23 top 20 singles and still to this day perform some 200 shows a year.

Chris Farlowe started out in the late '50s and then moved out to Europe to perform and still does.

The Swinging Blue Jeans are currently performing with a line-up consisting of frontman Alan Lovell, Peter Oakman, Jeff Bannister, and Graham Hollingworth.

The Fortunes came together in the '60s and still tour worldwide as a prominent harmony group.

The Ivy League, and The New Amen Corner are both back in full force with an aim to entertain.

The show will be hosted by Alan Mosca from Freddie and the Dreamers on October 27 at the Churchill Theatre, and tickets are expected to sell quickly.

To book tickets contact the box office by calling 020 3285 6000 or visit churchilltheatre.co.uk



**HOST:** Alan Mosca



**SINGER:** Chris Farlowe

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The Captain Digby is an award winning family restaurant in Thanet and one of the most popular places to visit all year round. The Digby caters for couples and families alike with fantastic views overlooking Kingsgate Bay for the adults and an indoor play area for the children. It's well worth a visit, a warm welcome awaits.

The Captain Digby, Kingsgate, Broadstairs, CT10 3QH  
www.captaindigby.co.uk | 01843 867 764

### Tartar Frigate

The historic Tartar Frigate is one of the only 18th century flint restaurants in Kent. Widely renowned as one of the best seafood restaurants in Kent, the Harbour restaurant boasts stunning panoramic views over Viking Bay in Broadstairs. If seafood isn't for you then you can take advantage of the extensive menu, which also includes mouth watering traditional dishes from around the world.

37-39 Harbour St, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1EU  
www.tartarfrigate.co.uk | 01843 862 013

### The Charles Dickens

Welcome to The Charles Dickens Pub. One of the largest pubs in Broadstairs, with the main bar downstairs serving great pub food, fine wine and ales and the Copperfields restaurant and bar upstairs commanding excellent views of Viking Bay. The chef's menus contain classic British ingredients, many of which are locally sourced and cooked with a modern twist.

5-6 Victoria Parade, Broadstairs CT10 1QS  
www.charlesdickensbroadstairs.co.uk | 01843 600 160

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# Eat with your body in mind, the alkaline way

The vegetarian chef, **Natasha Corrett**, promises that preparation is the key to eating healthier...

If you should ever have any doubts over the power of prep, speak to green-eating guru, and Honestly Healthy founder, **Natasha Corrett**.

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail," she muses proudly. "It's as simple as that. And I have the famous [Benjamin Franklin] quote at the front of my cookbook so it's the first thing you see."

Discussing her latest title, *Honestly Healthy In A Hurry*, the 33-year-old explains: "I wanted to create something that was method [based]. Working in kitchens, I realised that we do everything mise en place, so we prep and cook it all [in advance], and just pull the dish together at the last minute."

Extending the same approach to our day-to-day lives, putting in some prep and planning early, will help keep us on track with our healthy cooking, she says.

"I know if I get home from work and I'm tired, I am going to order a takeaway. I'm exactly the same as everyone else, so unless I have that food in my fridge, I'm not going to do it," she adds.

She may say she's the 'same as everyone else', but this London-born foodie certainly has one thing that many of us claim to lack, and that's bundles of energy.

Meeting Ms Corrett at her book launch-come-cooking class, the vegetarian chef, complete with enviable glossy hair and clear skin, despite in-



ENCOURAGING: **Natasha Corrett**

sisting she's knackered from a late night of promotional duties, certainly practices what she preaches.

"Your freezer is your best friend," she begins. "So if every two weeks you can make up a batch of stew or a curry and freeze it, they can be heated up from frozen with no fuss."

It's how she and her husband, gym owner Simon Bateman, live, and she promises that all of us busy folk "won't want to do it any other way".

But while she's mindful of what she puts in her body now, Corrett admits it took a trip to an Ayurvedic doctor to change her former yo-yo dieting ways, and ultimately inspire her 2013 overnight hit cookbook, *Honestly Healthy: Eat With Your Body In*

*Mind, The Alkaline Way*.

"He told me I was really acidic and I needed to eat more alkaline foods," she says, bundling her brunette locks on top of her head. "He told me to go on this 21-day [plan] and promised it would change my life."

"He gave me this muffin that was like cardboard, and I thought, 'If I am allowed to have that, then I can create a healthier alternative where I feel like I'm not missing out and I don't have to binge'. So that was the turning point for me."

Encouraging consumers to "cook smart" with no wastage, her latest mantra is designed to inspire readers to cook in three different ways: Quick – straightforward recipes that take less than 30 minutes.

## Star-studded night

A SPACE Spectacular will take place at Fort Amherst on September 10.

Talks include topics such as to infinity and beyond, in search of aliens, exploding stars, and black holes.

Exhibits include meteorites, crater making, make a galaxy, and touch the moon.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults and £3 for children (aged 5-12).

For tickets, visit [www.fortamherst.com](http://www.fortamherst.com)

## Give it a little soul

SOUL Legends are coming to Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on December 10.

The show moves from sixties origins to present day, reliving 70s and 80s classics.

The night will relive favourites such as Respect, Soul Man, Sex Machine, Ain't Nobody, Knock On Wood, and Midnight Hour.

For tickets, call 0844 871 3015 or visit [www.atgtickets.com/Folkestone](http://www.atgtickets.com/Folkestone)

## Enjoy drama at opera

THE Russian State Opera are performing Carmen at Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre on September 14.

The performance not only features a talented cast but is accompanied by a 30-person live orchestra.

The script claims to "have it all" – love, treachery, passion and betrayal.

For tickets, call the box office on 01892 530 613

## Remembering Fred

STRICTLY Come Dancing stars, Aljaz and Janette will be bringing their 'Remembering Fred' tour to Leas Cliff Hall Folkestone on Thursday, May 4, 2017.

The show promises to be a "magical evening of top hat, white tie and wonderful tales".

To book tickets, visit [atgtickets.com/](http://atgtickets.com/) Folkestone or call the box office on 0844 871 3015



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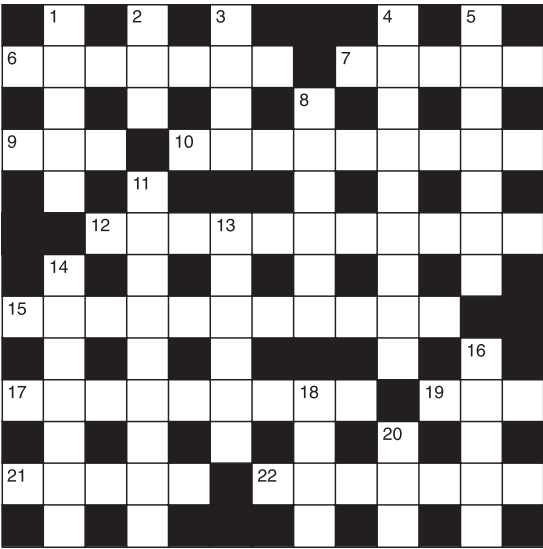
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- Quick Across**

  - 6. Humorous (7)
  - 7. Surrounded by (5)
  - 9. Pinch (3)
  - 10. Six-sided (9)
  - 12. Ill-will (11)
  - 15. Echo (11)
  - 17. About (9)
  - 19. Pledge (3)
- Down**

  - 1. Film (5)
  - 2. Sever (3)
  - 3. Stupefy (4)
  - 4. Indecorum (9)
  - 5. Babyhood (7)
  - 8. Toil (6)
- Across**

  - 21. Cringe (5)
  - 22. Stupid (7)
- Down**

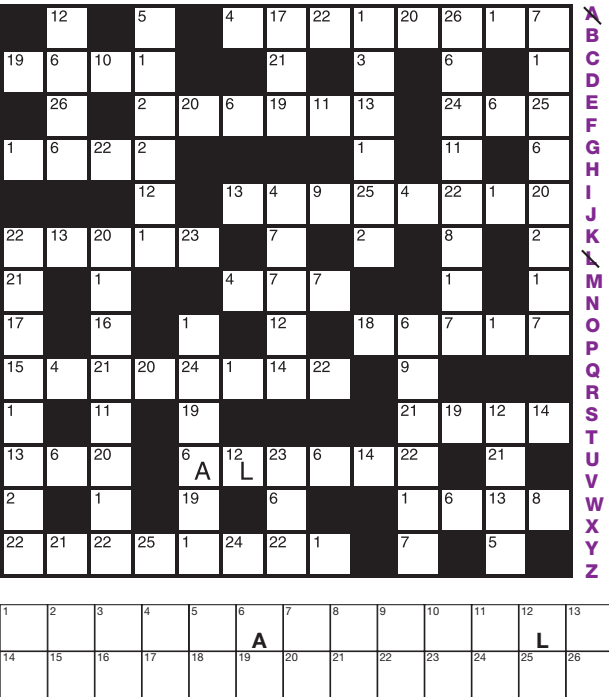
  - 11. Shameless (9)
  - 13. Incorporate (6)
  - 14. Unfold (7)
  - 16. Fashion (5)
  - 18. Trim (4)
  - 20. Regret (3)

Cryptic

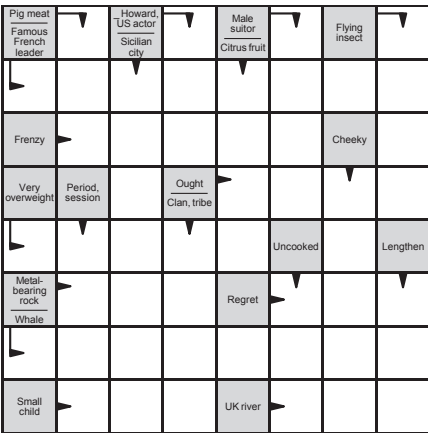
- Across**
- 6. Seat of Empire (7)
  - 7. Wide awake later, perhaps (5)
  - 9. Rum and water (3)
  - 10. Involved, I interact (9)
  - 12. Doing very well at a job at the Mint? (6,5)
  - 15. Sportingly, this side doesn't accept a paying proposition (7,4)
  - 17. Having the look of a powerful flyer (5-4)
  - 19. Drop of sea water (3)
  - 21. An order form, perhaps (5)
  - 22. The least economical car mother goes after (7)
- Down**
- 1. What disciplinarians applied to the back parts (5)
  - 2. Toy revolver (3)
  - 3. Father is not out to cause distress (4)
  - 4. Those on this roll may make their mark (9)
  - 5. A relative right in the midst of trouble (7)
  - 8. A girth properly adjusted (6)
  - 11. False description of atheists? (9)
  - 13. Accustoms user in new process (6)
  - 14. Can I provide a friendly solution? (7)
  - 16. Around, or a series of rounds? (5)
  - 18. Big lake up country (4)
  - 20. Tip-up seats are provided for playgoers there (3)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword

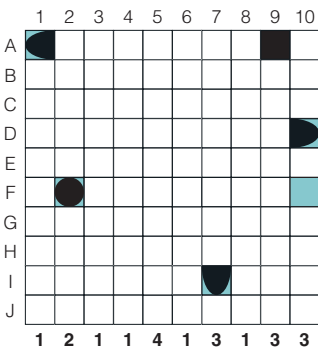


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

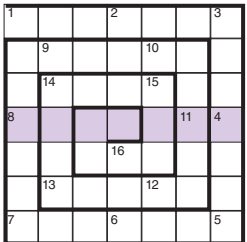
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET  
1 x Battleship  
2 x Cruiser  
3 x Destroyer  
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



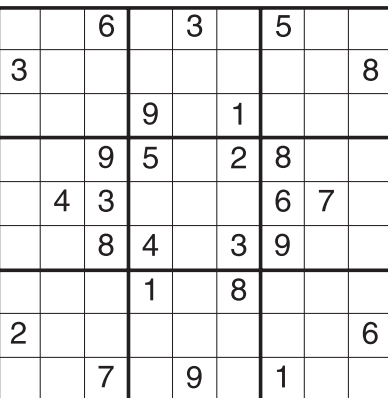
Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

- 1. Ado
- 2. Fastener
- 3. Challenge
- 4. Fencing sword
- 5. Flat
- 6. Fleet
- 7. Sign of tiredness
- 8. Hitlerite
- 9. Small island
- 10. Biblical garden
- 11. Pleasant
- 12. School test
- 13. Humble
- 14. Door handle
- 15. Rotary file
- 16. Engrossed

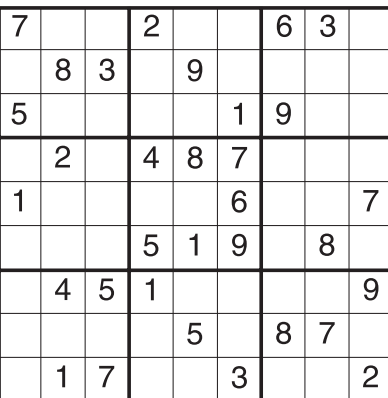
Keyword clue: A planet

SUDOKU

Hard



Easy



Solutions

**Double Crossword**

11 Barfaced; 13 Embodiment; 14 Develop; 16 Vogue; 18 Neat; 20 Rue; 21 Fuss; 22 Stud; 3 Dares; 4 Epee; 5 Even; 6 Navy; 7 Yawn; 8 Naz; 9 Isle; 10 Eden; 11 Nice; 12 Exam; 13 Mook; 14 Knob; 15 Burr; 16 Rapt; 17 Reverberate; 18 Regarding; 19 Vow; 20 Down; 21 Movie; 22 Cut; 23 Daze; 4 Immodesty; 5 Infancy; 8 Labour;

**Cryptic**

Across: 6 Jocular; 7 Among; 9 Nip; 10 Hexagonal; 12 Malvolence; 15 Reverb; 17 Eagle-eyed; 19 Ebb; 21 Class; 22 Minimum; Down: 1 Strap; 2 Top; 3 Pain; 4 Electoral; 5 Brother; 8 Right; 11 Faithless; 13 Inure; 14 Amiable; 16 About; 18 En; 20 Pit.

**Word Spiral**

24=N, 25=P, 26=V, 21=U, 22=S, 23=W, 18=F, 19=G, 20=R, 15=L, 16=Q, 17=B, 12=L, 13=C, 14=Y, 9=M, 10=Z, 11=L, 5=K, 6=A, 7=D, 8=H, 1=E, 2=T, 3=X, 4=O.

**Arrowword**

1. T O T  
2. U M P  
3. B A C  
4. K R U  
5. E A  
6. L M U  
7. S T A  
8. N A I  
9. A P O  
10. L O L  
11. E O N  
12. G B G

**Battleships**

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**Sudoku - Easy**

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**Sudoku - Hard**

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# Go tech-free in South Africa

Dream of a world where no one can reach you? South Africa offers the ultimate switching off experience...

**A**wilderness operator in South Africa has come up with a solution to our obsession with being online.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife provide a series of trails offering a complete back to nature experience into Hluhluwe-Imfolozi, the oldest proclaimed game reserve in Africa.

All technology is left behind in favour of natural distractions such as elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard, blue wildebeest, giraffe, cheetah, hyena, warthog and over 300 bird species.

First established in the 1950s, the trails adhere to a strict 'minimum impact, no trace' ethos.

Most day visitors have to leave the park at sundown, so the special benefit of the wilderness trails, is that guests are privileged to encounter the reserve at night.

Available from mid-February to December for a maximum of eight people plus a qualified guide, Ezemvelo offers five trails.

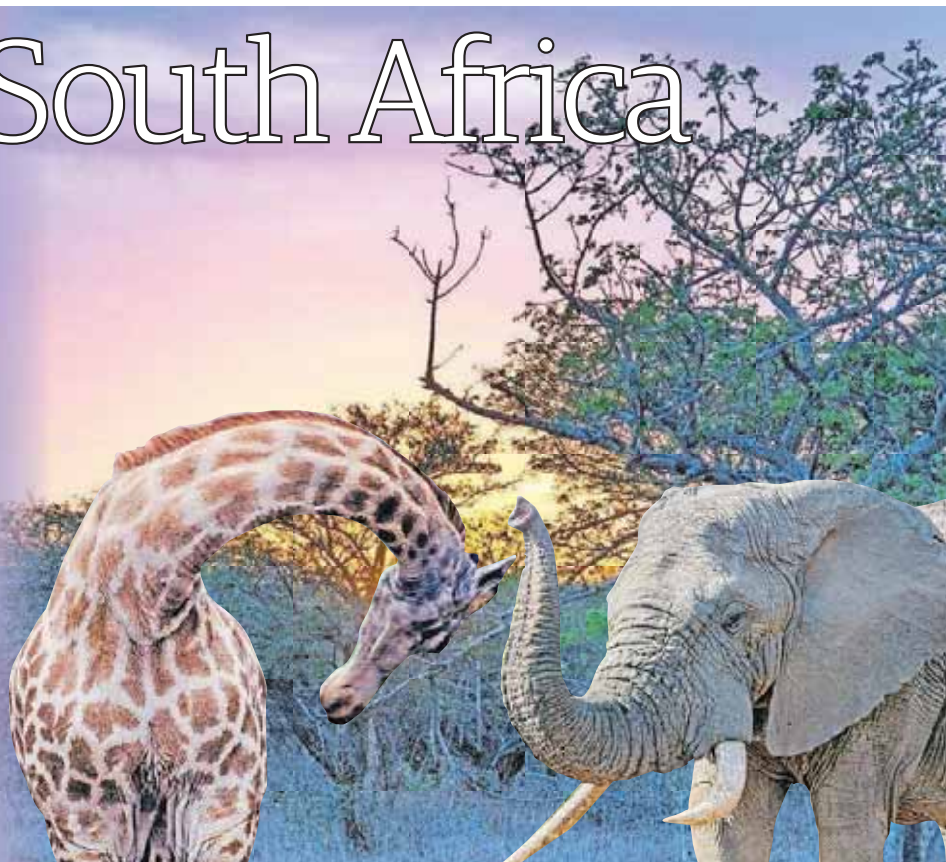
Ranging from two night to four nights, the options include the 'Primitive Trail' aimed at the real outdoor enthusiast: think sleeping under the stars, drinking from springs and meals by the campfire.

For those who want a little more cover, the 'Short Wilderness Trail' offers safari-style tents, each with their own bathroom. The experience includes daily treks of between 7-15kms, where walkers are accompanied by donkeys carrying provisions.

The trails are just three hours from Durban, so are ideal as side-trips to a city stay.

All rates include meals, guide and accommodation. Prices start from £112 per person for the 'Short' trail. For more info visit: <https://www.facebook.com/EzemveloKZNWildlife/> or [www.kznwildlife.com](http://www.kznwildlife.com)

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

## Make a splash on responsibility

I HAVE to take issue with the bias of your reporting of the incident where five men drowned on Camber Beach (KoS, last week). Thoughtless criticism of the lack of lifeguards is simply not good enough.

You state that Mr Arumukam says he brought his sons from Sri Lanka because it is not safe back there. While most of us would think that there are many, many safe countries closer to his homeland than Britain, it goes without saying that we all want to be safe.

The question is – how do we get safety? Do we wait around for someone else to provide it for us – in this case, via taxpayer-funded lifeguards – or do we do our best to help ourselves?

I think we all have a responsibility and a role to play. We can't rely on others to do the things we ought to be doing ourselves. This means that if we go to a beach we inform ourselves about the tides and local conditions. We read the notices posted everywhere to help us. We do not go into the water if we cannot swim. Swimming classes are, after all, available to everybody, everywhere in this country.

By not taking these simple, self-evident steps, six men have drowned at Camber in two weeks. The beaches are now patrolled by the generosity of local people through the RNLI which is run with ordinary people's money. Aren't the British people wonderful? No wonder everybody wants to come here. Why can't you give us some praise?

My heartfelt sympathies go out to the families of those who died and I would suggest that the most beneficial things they can now do in memory of their loved ones would be to organise swimming lessons in their local communities and make donations to the RNLI. Perhaps the survivors could train to become lifeguards themselves. Their distress needs to be channelled positively. You can only run so far.

Moaning about the authorities will get nobody anywhere. Criticism of the taxpayers' inability to provide beach patrols is not enough. Nobody can afford to passively expect others to do for them what they ought to be doing for themselves – and your report should have presented this expanded point of view.

**Joan Bridge-Taylor**  
 Rochester

## Is there a third way for Manston?

JOHN Ward Moorhouse's letter wrote about Kent Council to move forward (KoS letters, last week).

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Empire simply can't strike back after Brexit

IN reply to Messrs Steerpike & Granger (KoS, letters, last week) I first remind them that it was a Leave campaigner, before the vote, who lodged a Parliamentary petition, since signed by nearly five million people after the vote, to call for a 75 percent turnout and a 60/40 vote to leave to make it more 'legitimate'.

Neither was achieved and it's still to be debated by a Parliament where two thirds of MPs, including a majority of Tories, voted to Remain. Further there are still legal challenges to come on Brexit even if Mrs May pursues it.

Now though the tasks and costs of leaving are already proving ever more complex and very lengthy as various reports are showing, including one estimate of £5bn plus just for civil service administration of. Elsewhere, investors have already pulled £5.7bn from the UK stock market.

The overall effects though will undoubtedly only become known over the mid to long term and dependent on the actual exit agreements; if they ever happen.

As for Mr Steerpike it was actually the Leave campaigners who, given they expected to lose anyway, had no actual exit plan.

To Phil 'we ruled a fifth of the world and can be great again' Granger, and indeed all Brexiters, I refer them to Benjamin Grob-Fitzgerald's new book Continental Drift: Britain and Europe from the End of Empire to the Rise of Euroscepticism.

This, amongst much else, clearly exposes the problem that Britain's difficult membership of the EU has also been plagued by unreconciled longings of empire. It explodes the myth of British exceptionalism.

To get any kind of decent Brexit though the leavers are going to have to vote for Labour at any snap-election to ensure staying in the single-market, retaining workplace and environmental rights and protection from dire trade deals like TTIP.

**Ray Duff**  
 Folkestone

## Time for KCC to head into sunset

JOHN Ward Moorhouse's cross comments are further evidence how east and west Kent are divided, and it is evident that west Kent should have its own council such as Medway.

Kent County Council is now redundant as far as east Kent is concerned, putting in roadworks which have paralysed Thanet in the summer causing tailbacks all over the isle, cynical people in Thanet question whether these roadworks at

the height of the summer season is KCC exercising its power over Thanet.

The merger of Swale, Thanet, Dover, Folkestone and Canterbury councils would serve its residents far better than the current set up with KCC and more than likely be cheaper, which would result in cheaper council tax bills, so I applaud all theses district and city councils for meeting and looking at merging as one.

Another example of how these district councils and KCC have different opinions is Manston Airport, all the district and city councils have given their full support of keeping it as an airport, yet the leader of KCC has backed development of a housing estate in an area suffering from poor road systems it has implemented.

**Mike Jackson**  
 Margate

## Grammar debate fails to hit mark

When quoting educationalists in reference to grammar schools David Redshaw (KoS, letters, last week) inadvertently illustrates one of the major problems involved, as the educational establishment has opposed selective education for decades, partly for ideological reasons, as many wish to reduce standards in the name of egalitarianism, while poor teachers can survive in a less competitive environment.

Selective education is only discriminatory in that it allows those who would benefit the most from a purely academic education to be distinguished from those who are better suited to technical or other types.

How can this be wrong, anymore than choosing the first eleven in school football teams from those who perform best at football?

The problems Mr Renshaw raises about paperwork are very valid but do not advance the argument for comprehensive education.

**Colin Bullen**  
 Tonbridge

## Granger: Stop acting like Trump

PHIL Granger (KoS letters ad infinitum) should reconsider this Donald Trump approach to all issues.

It lacks an essential commodity; a liberal dose of perspective, which all good judgement demands.

He should keep his dictionary but read an encyclopedia too as the subject of democracy is too vast to confine to a dictionary definition.

**DR Hedges**  
 Chatham

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

**Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to North & West

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

**We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.**  
[kent-life.co.uk](http://kent-life.co.uk) [kentnews.co.uk](http://kentnews.co.uk)





**Harvest time at Bapchild, near Sittingbourne**  
by **Colin Miles from Bapchild**

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*'The staff are very caring and there is always a friendly atmosphere at Bridge Haven.'*

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All rooms at Bridge Haven are bright and cheerful with many bedrooms having en-suite facilities providing relaxation and a sense of well-being. Facilities include the 'Snug' - a pub like facility for residents to enjoy and socialise and Gregory's tea room, situated in one of the two attractively laid gardens.

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3 nights  
half board  
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£139<sup>pp</sup>

## Spring Back to the 60s Party - Pontins Pakefield

Suffolk Coast - Self-Drive

Friday, 10 March, 2017 - Quote: PP3-KOS



Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up entertainment featuring Marty Wilde and the Wildcats, Cupids Inspiration, Glenn Darren and the Krewcats, Dave Berry PLUS The Cilla Show. Enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night.

**INCLUDED:** 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers • Entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - club upgrade available • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • Free Parking



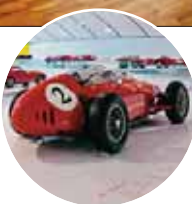
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from  
£549<sup>pp</sup>

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Ferrari themed  
Hotel

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21 Oct, 2016 & 10 Mar, 2017 • Quote: FL-KOS



Come with us to Maranello and Modena in Northern Italy - home to legendary Ferrari and Lamborghini sports cars. Our four-day break takes in all the sights of Maranello including The Ferrari Museum and the Fiorano Test Track. We will also visit the Enzo Ferrari and Lamborghini Museums in Modena. No trip to Maranello would be complete without taking a Ferrari out for a spin. Test drives are possible with a host of models to choose from.

**INCLUDED:** Escorted throughout abroad • 3 nights B&B sharing a twin/double room at the 4-star Maranello Village Hotel plus 1 dinner • Admissions to: The Ferrari Museum, The Enzo Ferrari Museum PLUS guided bus tour inside the Fiorino test-track proving grounds and Viale Enzo Ferrari and The Lamborghini Museums • Return Easyjet flights London Gatwick to Bologna - hand luggage included • All transfers abroad



£1 Drinks  
Entertainment  
Over 40s only  
£10pp deposit

2 nights  
half board  
£129<sup>pp</sup>

## Seaside 60s Sounds in West Sussex

Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing

24 March, 2017 • Quote: WG3-KOS



Join us in Worthing for an exclusive Party Weekend and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment from Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) plus Vicki Lambert as Dusty Springfield. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

**INCLUDED:** Happy Hour £1 drinks from 7pm to 8pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • Live entertainment both nights • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts



Entertainment  
Over 40s only  
£10pp deposit

2 nights  
half board  
from  
£129<sup>pp</sup>

## 60s Sounds in Surrey

Thatcher's Hotel, Guildford

4 Nov, 2016, 6 Jan, 10 Feb, 10 Mar &  
14 Apr, 2017 - Quote: TG-KOS



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By Steve Loader  
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**OFF TO A FLIER:** The new Niro looks good, offers excellent refinement, is frugal and even drives well...

## All hail Kia's imperious hybrid

**FIRST DRIVE:** Korean brand's first hybrid venture hits the ground running, posing an immediate threat to Toyota's famous eco star – the Prius

**K**OREAN car companies must worry their rivals. Kia and Hyundai, in particular, have revolutionized their quality, image and design over less than 15 years.

And Kia has now launched its first hybrid, immediately outdoing the newly-arrived 4th generation Toyota Prius, the world's best known eco car.

Like the Prius, the new Niro – pronunciation echoes the notorious Emperor Nero – sells only as a petrol-electric hybrid. Unlike the Toyota though, it looks and feels like a normal car.

Indeed, until the Niro (from £21,295) arrived I suspected an industry conspiracy to make all bespoke hybrid and electric cars awful to look at and drive, ensuring buyers stayed loyal to conventional models – the carmakers' primary business.

But the Niro looks just like a smart mid-size five-door crossover and, if it looks conventional, it also drives so: unlike the Prius's 'waftomatic' CVT (continuously-variable transmission) the Niro has a six-speed twin clutch auto 'box developed specially for it, delivering seamless changes and enough response to engage the driver – something the Prius can't do.

Mated with a refined 104bhp 1.6-litre petrol engine plus 43bhp electric motor, it offers an official combined 74.3mpg and road tax exempt 88g/km CO2 emissions.



The motor's batteries lie below the rear seat, leaving the boot uncompromised at a generous 427 litres – 1,425 with seats down.

Refinement is excellent, helped by a slippery low drag body more akin to family hatchback than higher riding SUV-style crossover like the Nissan Qashqai, though it still wears some SUV body cladding.

So the styling not only pleases the eye, but helps decent handling and a comfortable ride.

Kia is tempting early buyers with a luxurious First Edition Niro (£26,995) but all versions come with decent spec, and don't worry about the hybrid tech's longevity: the Niro has Kia's usual industry-leading seven-year/100,000 mile warranty.



# Junior Infiniti well worth a second look

After early struggles here, Nissan's snob brand is building momentum, helped by its Q30 entry model hatch launched in January, writes **Steve Loader...**

INFINITI has been around a while, but UK sales are a long way from disappearing over the horizon. This is partly because Nissan's posh brand previously geared its cars to North American driving dynamics and petrol power, rather than British and European demand for sharper handling and greater fuel economy – preferably diesel. Infiniti then compounded the problem by launching here in 2009 amidst a recession.

But there are signs of progress: an expanded dealership network – including one for Kent at Maidstone – and a line-up now better tailored to our tastes.

The key move was the January launch of its smallest and most accessible model, the Q30 five-door hatch (from £20,550).

It's an eye-catcher that even snobby corporate car park watchers can't dismiss, though the more observant will note a similarity with the Mercedes-Benz A-Class – fruit of increasing co-operation between the Renault-Nissan Alliance and Merc's parent, the Daimler group.

But styling is not the issue for Infiniti, and neither is quality and value.



Infiniti's problem is delivering the driving credibility from which prestige and snob value is derived – BMW's rise to UK dominance being the perfect example. So while the Q30 trounces the BMW 1 Series hatch for looks, the premium hatch driver's choice is the nicely-balanced rear-wheel drive Beemer.

The Infiniti is by no means a no hopper, but it does sit rather high on the road – surprising when the brand will soon offer the jacked-up QX30 derivative anyway – unless you opt for the low slung and more tautly sprung Q30 Sport. The Q30 Premium version tested here had the mainstay chassis set-up



though, and it's clear that good ride comfort and refinement is prioritised over agility; the car wallows if pushed hard on a winding road, but loves motorway cruising. On balance though, this is a creditable entry model for a brand that is gaining momentum, if still short of infinity.

**Infiniti Q30**

Price:	from £26,430
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	BMW 1 Series

And while 1.6 and 2.0-litre petrol engines are offered, it's clear that company car sales are driven by the 1.5 and 2.2-litre diesels, the former being particularly tax-efficient. This Renault-derived 1.5 unit – developing 108bhp here – is a proven star: flexible, economical (68.9mpg combined) and low emission (108g/km of CO2, thereby qualifying for the lowest payable road tax bracket). As with every Infiniti I have driven, the quality and level of specification for the money cannot be faulted – the seats are arguably the best in class for comfort. Space is not great though and the rear middle seat occupant must splay his/her legs wide of the centre tunnel to get comfy. On the other hand, interior finish and quality is superior to its Merc A-Class parent, underlining how this alternative premium hatch is worth a second look.

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**Official fuel economy figures for the Infiniti range in mpg (l/100 km): urban 25.2 to 15.0 (11.2 to 18.9), extra urban 36.2 to 28.8 (7.8 to 9.8), combined 31.4 to 21.6 (9.0 to 13.1). CO2 emission: 307 to 238 g/km.** Order the INFINITI Q30 before September 30th and we will help you take to the road and go further. You will receive a deposit contribution of up to £2,500 with 3.99% APR representative\*. Plus if you order between September 2nd and 11th we will also give you an extra £500 dealer deposit contribution\*\* - an offer as impressive as the INFINITI Q30. Car shown for illustration purposes only. F.G. Barnes & Sons Limited is a credit broker and not a lender. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Available to 18s and over. Guarantee / indemnity may be required. Finance by RCI, Egale House, 78 St Albans Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 1AR. **At the end of the agreement you will not own the vehicle. Please ask for further details.**

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Representative Example

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The MPG figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. They are provided for comparability purposes, and may not reflect actual driving experience. IS 300h SPORT fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures: urban 60.1 mpg (4.7 l/100km), extra-urban 58.9 mpg (4.8 l/100km), combined 61.4 mpg (4.6 l/100km), 107 g/km CO<sub>2</sub> (18% BIK). NX 300h F SPORT fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures: urban 53.3 mpg (5.3 l/100km), extra-urban 55.4 mpg (5.1 l/100km), combined 54.3 mpg (5.2 l/100km), 121 g/km CO<sub>2</sub> (21% BIK).mpg (5.2 l/100km), 121 g/km CO<sub>2</sub> (21% BIK)

NX 300h prices start from £29,995. Model shown is NX 300h F SPORT £38,140, including optional metallic paint at £645. \*5.9% APR Representative, £1,500 Finance Deposit Allowance and £500 Centre contribution 24-42 months only on Lexus Connect (PCP), up to 35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. NX new retail sales. Ordered and proposed for finance between 1 July 2016 and 30 September 2016, registered and financed by 31 December 2016 through Lexus Financial Services. IS 300h prices start from £29,995. Model shown is IS 300h Sport £30,605, including option metallic paint at £610. \*0% APR Representative 24 months only on Lexus Connect (PCP), up to 35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. IS new retail sales. Ordered and proposed for finance between 1 July 2016 and 30 September 2016, registered and financed by 31 December 2016 through Lexus Financial Services. \*Payment shown is based on a 24 month Lexus Connect contract with £7,599.25 customer deposit and guaranteed future value/optional final payment. Participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. 8,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charge applies over contracted miles, 9 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status, over 18s. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Lexus Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC. Registered Office: Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



# Your guide to... Motability

## Motability fact file

**D**ISABLED people and their families have been liberated by Motability. The Government-backed scheme enables them to get on the road for much less than buying or leasing a new or nearly new car privately, and helps with potentially costly adaptations for controls or wheelchair access.

Motability's regular payments also take care of everyday running costs, from insurance, maintenance and repairs, to breakdown assistance.

And Motability does not insist that the disabled person is the driver:

er: up to two other named drivers can be on the car's insurance cover instead of the disabled person.

Since launch in 1978, Motability has sourced more than three million cars, scooters and powered wheelchairs, allowing disabled people to commute to work, shop, do voluntary work, visit friends, go to the doctor, play sport, give a family member a lift, or go on holiday – things the motoring majority takes for granted.

Some users have also pursued further education or better jobs and careers.

Motability is available to those who receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement and includes:

- A choice of around 2,000 car models



**MOTABILITY STARS:** the stylish Renault Kadjar crossover, versatile Skoda Yeti SUV and the elegant yet capacious Peugeot 308 SW estate

- Insurance, servicing and maintenance
- RAC breakdown assistance
- Road tax
- Tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000 mileage allowance over 3 years.
- Car dimensions vary: seat height, door opening angle and storage for wheelchairs and

equipment can all affect whether the car works for you and your particular disability or not, but your local dealer can help ensure the car is right for you.

The Motability package continues to the end of your three-year lease, with a seamless transfer to your new car.

■ For more about this liberating scheme, see inside this special supplement and check out [www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)



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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 29.7 (9.5) – 68.9 (4.1); Extra Urban 46.3 (6.1) – 97.4 (2.9); Combined 38.2 (7.4) – 83.1 (3.4).  
CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 171 – 88 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Vehicles shown are Fiat 500X Pop Star 1.6 MultiJet 120HP MY16 with NIL Advance Payment, plus New Fiat 500 Pop Dualogic 1.2 69HP with NIL Advance Payment and Fiat 500L Trekking 1.4 95HP with NIL Advance Payment. Fiat 500X and Fiat 500L Trekking feature optional paint at additional cost. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed by 30th September 2016. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to stock availability. We work with a number of creditors including Fiat Financial Services.



# Don't worry...

**M**OTABILITY'S range of more than 2,000 vehicles can seem daunting.

Fortunately, the scheme's website has a search function allowing users to quickly create a short list of comparable cars, taking account of buying parameters, mixing typical consumer searches and the specialist needs of Motability users.

Search by car details takes a consumer-style approach and includes:

- What kind of mobility allowance the user has
- What level of advance payment the user intends to pay, if anything
- Preferred car

type, make, model and number of doors

- Whether the user wants a manual, semi-automatic or automatic gearbox
  - Whether the driver is under-25
- But there are two other search programmes: Search by Accessibility Needs, taking account of car measurements; and Search for a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV).

There is also excellent advice on what type of car to look for, in language more relevant to disabled

users, such as:

- How smaller 2-3-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles that may make access easier, but may be both harder to close generally and harder to open wide in narrow parking spaces.
- How hatchbacks have a raise-up rear door or 'hatch', which could make it harder for a wheelchair user to open/close or access items, or simply be problematic when opening in the garage.
- Extra space in estate cars can be more convenient for a disabled person as the load area may be used to carry disability aids, but the vehicles can be longer and bulkier.



**RESEARCH PAYS OFF:** Motability's own website can help you decide whether the Nissan Qashqai crossover, Skoda Octavia Estate or Peugeot 208 is right for you



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\*Verso Active 1.6 V-matic Manual at NIL Advance Payment. Model shown is a Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual at £95 Advance Payment. Aygo x-pression 5 door 1.0 VVT-i x-shift at NIL Advance Payment, Yaris Icon 5 door 1.4 D-4D Manual at NIL Advance Payment, Yaris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto at NIL Advance Payment, Auris Icon 5 door 1.6 D-4D Manual at NIL Advance Payment, Auris Touring Sports Icon 5 door 1.2T VVT-i Manual at £595 Advance Payment and Auris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.8 VVT-i Auto at £545 Advance Payment. Subject to availability. Please note that a total of 60,000 miles over three years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Offer valid between 1st July and 30th September 2016. Available as part of the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.8 (8.6), Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7), Combined 41.5 (6.8). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 157g/km. Aygo x-pression 5 door 1.0 VVT-i x-shift. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 95g/km. Yaris Icon 5 door 1.4 D-4D Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 67.3 (4.2), Extra Urban 91.1 (3.1), Combined 80.7 (3.5). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 91g/km. Yaris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 91.1 (3.1), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 85.6 (3.3). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 75g/km. Auris Icon 5 door 1.6 D-4D Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 108g/km. Auris Touring Sports Icon 5 door 1.2T VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 126g/km. Auris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.8 VVT-i Auto. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban 80.7 (3.5), Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 82g/km. All mpg and CO<sub>2</sub> figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.





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Book a test drive







**WHAT'S IT TO BE:** a space-efficient MPV like the FIAT 500L, versatile supermini cum MPV like the Nissan Note, or a sleek estate like the Toyota Auris Touring Sports?

# Top tips on making your Motability choice

## Small cars

Tend to have lower advance payments, running costs and CO2 emissions than larger vehicles. 2-3-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles, which makes access easier, but fitting into and opening/closing the door in narrow parking spaces can be harder. 4-5-door cars benefit from superior back seat access - useful if you often have more than one passenger.

## Medium cars

Are often sold as hatchbacks and will have a slightly bigger boot than a standard small car. The same door arguments apply as for small cars.

## Family cars

Family cars are large 4-door saloons or 5-door hatchbacks and are considerably larger than medium sized cars. Hatchbacks have more boot capacity.

## Crossovers

As the name implies, these

versatile models merge several sectors - family hatchbacks and (see later) MPVs and SUVs - and tend to sit higher on the road and can be easier to get in and out of, depending on disability.

## Estate cars

Usually longer than a standard



saloon or hatchback, with useful space for mobility aids in the boot, but this can add to the car's bulk so make sure you check it out with a test drive before committing.

## Multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs)

Ranging from small to large, MPVs can seat up to nine. The seats are higher, with more headroom, legroom and width. Some have large sliding side doors, which improves access for those with disabilities.

## 4x4 and Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV)

The term '4x4' is usually used for vehicles designed for off-road use, which generally have higher ground clearance. Until recently, all

4x4s had 4-wheel drive, but many people now buy for the SUV styling and opt for a front-wheel drive version to save fuel.

## Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs)

WAVs are cars converted to carry passengers travelling in their wheelchair or those who wish to drive from a wheelchair. WAVs may be best if you have trouble getting in and out of the car from your wheelchair and would prefer to remain in it when travelling as a passenger. WAVs come in different sizes and have many standard features. The Motability website has a specific WAV Search.



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# You must take the test drive...

**M**AP out a campaign - drive your chosen candidates soon after one another to allow more accurate comparisons.

**Allow time** - you need enough to drive in all situations: town traffic, on the motorway or a fast road, and on less well-maintained rural roads. An hour should be sufficient, as long as you avoid getting stuck in a rush hour jam.

**What are you looking for?** - seat and ride comfort, how refined it is in terms of engine, wind, tyre and mechanical noise. And especially...

**Do you like the controls?** - many carmakers are going their own way in search of the best ergonomics or

human interaction with the controls, but they don't suit everyone. If need be, can they be adapted to your needs?

**Make it a family outing** - it can be a painful process of 'are we there yet?' proportions, but try to get as many of the other would-be car users involved in the test drive - drivers and non-drivers - as well as the disabled person, and is it practical for him or her to use or will major adaptations be needed?

**Is it the right spec?** - try to get a test car as close to the one you are interested in, even if you have to wait a few days for the dealer to arrange it or have to go to another dealership. Chances are the dealer will have a higher spec model than the one you want, it's then easier to be seduced by the car.



**TEST IT OUT:** whether it be the seven-seat Toyota Verso MPV, stylish Renault Captur crossover, or the newly revamped FIAT Qubo people carrier



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Advance payment prices are available to applications made during the current pricing period (01/07/2016 to 30/09/2016) at participating Dealers only. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE MOTABILITY SCHEME, YOU MUST BE IN RECEIPT OF THE HIGHER RATE MOBILITY COMPONENT OF THE DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE, THE ENHANCED RATE MOBILITY COMPONENT OF THE PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT, THE WAR PENSIONERS' MOBILITY SUPPLEMENT OR THE ARMED FORCES INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. This offer is for eligible Customers only and is not available in conjunction with any other Nissan offer or scheme. This is a trademark of Motability, registered charity 299765. Models shown are for illustration purposes only. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing, in accordance with 2004/3/EC and intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. (Optional equipment maintenance, driving behaviour, road and weather conditions may affect the official results.) Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.



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\*Option part-silver roof rails at £165. \*\*To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance, War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, Enhanced Rate Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment or Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). Nil advance payment applies to ŠKODA Fabia Hatch S, SE and colour edition models (except SE 1.4 TDI Man and DSG at £95), ŠKODA Yeti S and SE models (2WD only), and all ŠKODA Octavia S Hatch models. Available with free metallic/special colour paint choices. Models shown are not UK specification. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of publication. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time and are not available in conjunction with any other offer. Participating retailers only. Subject to availability. Valid for applications to Motability from 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016.

Official fuel consumption for the three ŠKODA models (pictured above) in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7) to 52.3 (5.4); Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) to 72.4 (3.9); Combined 51.4 (5.5) to 62.8 (4.5). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the ŠKODA range are 128 to 104 g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.





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Any person or relevant authority wishing to submit representation(s) should do so in writing to Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW giving in detail the grounds of objection before 27.09.2016.  
Any objection must relate to one (or more) of the four Licensing Objectives. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests anonymity.  
It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person found guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5000.

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**THE M20 MOTORWAY (JUNCTIONS 9 - 12) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATIONS**  
Notice is hereby given that the Highways England Company Limited(a) has made an Order on the M20 Motorway in the Borough of Ashford and the District of Shepway, Maidstone, in the County of Kent, under section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because works are proposed to be executed on the road.  
The effect of the Order will be to impose a 24-hour temporary mandatory 50mph speed restriction on the coastbound carriageway of the M20 Motorway from a point 1200 metres north-west of the exit slip road at Junction 10 (A20/A2070/A292) to the western overbridge at Junction 12 (A20/B2064).  
These measures will be in the interests of road safety while contractors undertake ground investigations and all associated works.  
It is expected that the work will last for approximately 8 weeks starting on or after Monday 5 September 2016.  
The Order will come into force on 3 September 2016 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.  
The temporary mandatory speed restriction will be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works period.  
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Ref: HE/SE/2016/M20/132  
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# Deadline day joy as Dack stays put

Bournemouth defender Baily Cargill also joined on loan

## Football

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

GILLINGHAM enjoyed a successful transfer deadline day on Wednesday - keeping hold of star man Bradley Dack and also completing the signing of a promising defender just hours before the deadline.

The future of Dack, who bagged 15 goals and 11 assists for the club last season, has been under intense scrutiny all summer, but as the window slammed shut this week, he remained very much a Gillingham player and has been praised for his attitude throughout the saga by manager Justin Edinburgh.

Meanwhile, Baily Cargill, who has previously had loan spells at Welling, Torquay and Coventry, and is capable of playing as a centre-back and full-back, has joined the Gills on loan from Bournemouth until January.

Capped seven times by England's under-20s, Cargill has made 10 first-team starts for his parent club to date, all of which came in cup competitions.

Speaking about the signing, Edinburgh said: "We always said we wanted to add quality to the squad when bringing in players, and Baily ticks that box."

"He will prove to be an extremely important signing for Gillingham Football Club, and I'm delighted to secure his loan signing."

"As ever, I'd like to thank the chairman and Keith Burt, our director of football, for their support and work in bringing him into the club."

Subject to clearance, the 21-year-old will be eligible to play in Sunday's



**STAYING:** Gillingham star man Bradley Dack is still at Priestfield despite plenty of speculation he would leave during the last transfer window

League One game against Sheffield United at Priestfield after becoming the 12th and final signing made by the club this summer.

The match, which kicks off at 2.15pm in front of the Sky Sports cameras in Medway, will be a tough test of Gillingham's promotion credentials, despite the Blades enduring

a terrible start to the campaign with just one win in their five games so far.

Gillingham themselves, meanwhile, sit sixth in the table, and have caught the eye in the domestic cups too, knocking out Premier League outfit Watford to set up a mouthwatering clash with Edinburgh's former side Tottenham in the EFL Cup.

## Budding Paralympian joins Rio programme

### Paralympics

A FUTURE Paralympian from Faversham has been nominated to join an inspiration programme for the 2016 Games in Rio.

Oliver Mangion was nominated by British Triathlon to join the Paralympic Inspiration Programme, which is formed of 21 athletes across 13 Paralympic sports.

First launched in London 2012, it provides athletes and coaching staff with an experience of several days at a Paralympic Games.

It aims to provide developing athletes knowledge that will prepare them for a future Games experience as a selected athlete, as well as inspire and excite potential future Paralympians in their ambitions.



**STAR:** Oliver Mangion

The group will travel to Brazil this month where the programme aims to provide an understanding of the scale and scope of the Games, give an experience of a multi-sport environ-

ment, and give exposure to some of the unique aspects of a Games, including the village, the media spotlight and mixed zone, and transport systems.

Additionally, there will be a rigorous curriculum, with lessons about nutrition, media, anti-doping, competition planning and goal setting, as well as being expected to keep up with their current training programmes.

Kate Eddy, athlete services manager at British Paralympic Association, said it would provide an experience that will have a tangible impact on their development.

"We know that the programme has been really successful in the past and so I look forward to following this Rio cohort on their journeys towards Tokyo," she added.

## Sport Shorts

» Email [sports@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:sports@kosmedia.co.uk) or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

## Former sports minister back on hockey pitch

FORMER sports minister and Maidstone MP Helen Grant returned to the hockey pitch last week, 35 years since her last game as a teenager.

On its tour of the county, HockeyFest came to Maidstone in a bid to attract new members and encourage former players back to the sport while also celebrating the Olympic gold medal won by a Team GB side littered with Kent players.

Mrs Grant said: "I've been looking for an excuse to get back into hockey for ages."

"I really miss my team sports and I used to play hockey at county level in Cumbria, and the Maidstone Hockey Festival was just the chance I was looking for."

"The players and coaches were warm, welcoming and lovely and I hope to become a regular at Maidstone Hockey if my schedule allows".

Club chairman Matt Evans added: "The event was a resounding success and we are looking forward to the new season with a raised awareness and support for the game following Team GB's gold."



**ACTIVE:** Helen Grant



**WINNERS:** The KSSA team

## Third year of glory for county's young sailors

FOR the third consecutive year young Kent sailors from the Kent Schools Sailing Association (KSSA) have won the overall county prize at the NSSA (National Schools Sailing Association) annual regatta.

The event at Gorleston, Norfolk was hosted by the Norfolk Schools Sailing Association and saw some 298 sailors from across the UK competed in the week long regatta.

Team administrator Mark Breare said: "We receive coaching funding from the RYA to help in building the teams sailing skills."

"The benefit of this funding can clearly be seen in the results we've achieved for the last three years."

"We are delighted for the team and all the parents and volunteer helpers, and look forward to building on this success."

## Bellingham set to turn up heat

ORPINGTON boxer Alex Bellingham says to expect more fireworks in his second appearance in the UK's premier boxing league later this month, as he prepares for battle at the Epsom Downs Racecourse in Surrey.

The 22-year-old former amateur star was last in action back in June when he made a winning start to his Queensbury Boxing League career

by beating Jerome Prince.

After watching the fight back on TV, Bellingham, who trains in St Mary Cray, says there is more to come ahead of his next fight with York's John Joe Bedford on September 24.

"I only showed about 50 per cent of what I'm capable of, but on the 24th I'm looking to put on a show for all my fans," he said.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:  
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